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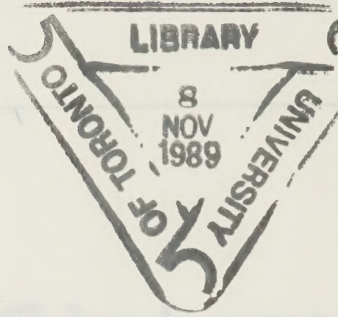
First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, October 25, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 25, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

USE OF LOTTERY PROFITS

Mr. Laughren: When the government launched into the lottery business, it made a commitment to use those profits for culture, recreation, fitness and sport. Since that time, both the Liberal and Conservative governments have used every ploy to avoid that commitment.

Bill 119 is yet another attempt by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in this direction. This time, the Treasurer is cynically trying to pit hospitals against cultural and recreational groups. Both are important. Sport, culture and community activity are preventive health care. Any money spent in these areas pays off many times in health savings down the road.

Let me list a few of the groups which contribute to healthy minds, bodies and communities and which this Treasurer would short-change: the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association, Office of Sports for the Physically Disabled, the Ontario Arenas Association Inc., the National Multicultural Theatre Association, the Ontario Track and Field Association, the Ontario Federation of Symphony Orchestras, Theatre Ontario, Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario, Ontario Hockey Association, Ontario Crafts Council and so forth. There are many, many more.

The Liberals themselves have said they are committed to preventive health, yet their reflex action is to fall into short-term thinking. There are better ways to fund the operation of hospitals and there are better solutions which can be found. We will be calling on the government to send this bill to committee so that the people of Ontario can explain to this government the importance of culture, recreation, sport and physical fitness.

EASTERN ONTARIO

Mr. Wiseman: Recently, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) announced she would be hosting six regional seminars throughout the province. It is quite clear that neither the minister

nor, presumably, anyone in cabinet knows or cares anything about eastern Ontario.

These meetings are said to be interesting, informative and entertaining. Seniors are meant to meet and exchange ideas and information on available opportunities and lifestyle. Why then, especially if so much is to be gained for them, are the people of eastern Ontario excluded?

The minister obviously thinks the province ends at Belleville, the site of the most easterly of these seminars, but I assure her that thousands of seniors live beyond this area, little known to this government, called eastern Ontario. Once again this government has shown its contempt for the people of eastern Ontario.

HEALTH SERVICES

Miss Nicholas: I would like to take this opportunity to thank our health care system and the doctors and nurses who make it work. We should never lose sight of how fortunate we are here in Ontario to have access to excellent medical care. Health professionals are increasingly specializing in a variety of areas of expertise, like the one that recently affected me.

A little over two weeks ago, a team of doctors, Knox Ritchie, Greg Ryan and Dan Farine, nationally and internationally recognized as leaders in the field of high-risk pregnancies, delivered my husband's and my first child, some eight weeks premature.

Weighing only two pounds, Leahanne is now being cared for at Mount Sinai Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, along with 33 others just as small as she. Due to superb staff and medical facilities, a high percentage of these babies will come home and have an opportunity to live life to the fullest. It is truly remarkable.

Ray and I look forward to Leahanne coming home, hopefully by Christmas, when we can attempt to look after her as well as Dr. Jeffries and the nursing staff at Mount Sinai are now. We thank them very much.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: Over the weekend, Hamilton collected a mountain of food for those who are in need of food services this winter and who are growing in numbers. The organizers of the

Greater Hamilton Food Share have thanked those who participated in this in order to raise 140,000 pounds of food.

I want to thank the organizers; namely, the Good Shepherd Centre, Mission Services, the Salvation Army, St. Matthew's House, Neighbour to Neighbour, Wesley Urban Ministries, Community Unity and the Jamaican Relief Fund.

But they also have a message I would like to underline, and that is that we collected only half of the amount that we wanted; namely, 300,000 pounds. Brother Richard MacPhee, who is the co-ordinator of the whole project, made it quite clear that, inasmuch as they have to feed 20,000 folk per month at each of the centres in the city, 140,000 pounds is not going to be enough to get them through the winter.

I would also like to add another message to this, and that is that, like the social agencies, our party has been trying to get the government to respond to the Thomson report, especially with the implementation of the first stage, which would increase the housing allowances in the increase in rates, which would drastically reduce the amount of food money that has to go in the direction of rent by the people concerned.

Tomorrow, my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) will be moving an increase in the minimum wage, which would help the working poor in the same direction. That would be a great Christmas present for the working poor and the poor of Hamilton.

STEEL INDUSTRY

Mr. Sterling: In its most recent report assessing competitiveness in Ontario industries, the Premier's Council states, "Uninterrupted access to the US markets is vitally important to the continued strength of the steel industry."

It is also vitally important for the future of the more than 40,000 Ontario jobs which depend on a healthy steel sector. Steelmakers in Ontario support the free trade agreement because they recognize that it provides the security of access they require to remain competitive and the new market opportunities which will translate into more jobs, more growth and more investment.

For instance, Atlas Specialty Steels, a company which employs 1,500 people in Welland-Thorold, supports the agreement because it knows from experience how unilateral American trade actions can hurt its company and its employees.

Stelco, another major employer in Welland-Thorold providing jobs for more than 800 people, also supports the agreement because it

will eliminate threats of major reductions in shipments to the US and thereby maintain and enhance Stelco jobs.

If the Liberal government of Ontario is concerned about the future of this vital manufacturing sector, if it is concerned about maintaining the steel industry jobs in places like Welland-Thorold, then it should support free trade. As it stands, the Ontario government is endorsing the status quo and is willing to leave our steelworkers, our steelmakers out in the cold.

1340

CONNIE PEARL CABLE

Mr. Beer: On Sunday evening, several hundred people gathered at the Old Tannery in Newmarket in a vigil to remember the life of Connie Pearl Cable, a 24-year-old mother of two young children, who was brutally murdered in her home on October 15.

Connie had known difficult times in her life. At one point she had been a resident at the Yellow Brick House, the only shelter for victims of family violence in York region. While it is normal practice in shelters not to reveal the names of present or past residents, Connie's family asked that her circumstances be made known so that her story would focus our attention on the desperate need to eliminate family violence.

As I stood at the vigil and looked at the faces of those present, many of whom had themselves been victims of violence, I felt frustration and I felt anger that this could happen in my community. Connie is not a statistic. She was a human being: a daughter, a mother, a friend to many. She had dreams, she had hopes, she had a future.

There is in our society a horrible sickness that far too often leads to brutal acts against women, children and seniors. We must not let Connie's death, or that of others who have met a similar fate, go unanswered. We must resolve to find a way to attack the causes of family violence.

As many members will be aware, this coming November is to be dedicated in this province to the elimination of family violence. The minister responsible for women's issues (Mr. Sorbara) will soon be making an announcement in this regard.

I know that all our sympathy goes to Connie's family. They have taken a courageous step in letting her story be told so that we will dedicate ourselves with vigour to eradicate the blight of family violence from our society.

SELF-HELP WEEK

Mr. Reville: I am sure that members of the Legislature will be interested to know that the

city of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto have declared this week to be Self-Help Week. As far as I am aware, this is the first time any jurisdiction has designated a week in honour of those groups that do self-help and mutual aid.

The Self-Help Clearinghouse of Metropolitan Toronto, which has been established now for a number of years, has just come out with a directory of self-help mutual aid groups in Metro Toronto. Any representative who works here in Metro Toronto would find this to be a useful guide to the more than 100 self-help groups that have grown up in this area over the last few years. Self-help is very important, particularly in a situation in which government continues to do so little for so many vulnerable people in Ontario.

CHILD CARE

Mr. McLean: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: Last Wednesday I rose in this Legislature to make a statement to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney). I asked the minister at that time if he would provide more day care spaces in the city of Orillia. I want to thank the minister for his quick action. I got a news release that he has allotted 25.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

NONPROFIT HOUSING

LOGEMENTS À BUT NON LUCRATIF

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It gives me great pleasure to advise members that this government is today launching the largest nonprofit housing initiative ever undertaken in Ontario—a program called Homes Now.

C'est avec un grand plaisir que j'annonce aux députés aujourd'hui que le gouvernement a donné le feu vert au plus important programme de logements à but non lucratif de l'histoire de l'Ontario, le programme «Maisons...pour de bon».

Today, with Homes Now, we are mobilizing all of our partners across the province to produce more housing faster. This new program is predicated on a series of innovations which require everyone's participation. Individuals and community groups stand ready to play their part. Government must provide them the flexibility necessary to get the job done.

A full series of consultations, begun immediately after the budget, has readied us to go forward. In that budget, my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) included \$2 billion

in special low-cost financing for the creation of some 30,000 nonprofit homes in this province.

Along with our other initiatives, the Housing First policy for government lands, the land use statement for municipalities, provincial agreements with our cities and major individual projects like St. Lawrence Square, we have demonstrated this government's determination to meet the critical housing situation too many of our citizens find themselves in.

I am today announcing that more than 3,000 of these units, a full 10 per cent of the total, are being allocated to four major nonprofit producers. These community leaders have a proven track record and are submitting plans to produce nonprofit housing. They can deliver Homes Now.

The Toronto Non-Profit Housing Corp., Cityhome, is receiving an allocation of 700 units; the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Corp., 1,000 units; the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp., 800 units; and the Ottawa Non-Profit Housing Corp., 500 units. These are initial allocations. They will be increased when the producers are ready to do more.

Some of our partners are in the members' gallery today. I would like to introduce them: Debbie Kraus, who is executive director of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association; Gino D'ambrosio, who is manager of development for the region of Peel; Robert Player, who is commissioner of housing for the city of Ottawa, and Jack de Klerk from the Metro Tenants Legal Services. I am very glad they are all here with us today.

We will also negotiate allocations for the groups creating permanent housing for homeless people and with resource groups which develop housing co-operatives across Ontario. Community groups from one end of Ontario to the other will be permitted to find and develop solutions to the housing challenges with which they are most familiar.

A strong and well-organized nonprofit housing sector is essential. Today, I am therefore announcing a new provincial initiative to provide the resources to those whom we know can deliver. Community groups have the unique capacity to create Homes Now. They can build community support for new projects. They can provide expertise and training to those creating homes for the first time. They can act with us as advocates.

Starting immediately, we are providing \$800,000 in grants and loans to community groups active in nonprofit housing. This will help

them build a healthy and solid base so that they too can create Homes Now.

Today, the government presented the first instalment in funding of more than \$150,000 to a new provincial organization, the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, which was born just a month ago. We have also presented funding of \$10,000 to Metro Tenants Legal Services. Along with the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario and the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, they are finalizing a proposal to help tenants in privately owned buildings to convert them to housing co-ops. We are providing the financing for Homes Now and the tools people need to make them a reality.

We are anticipating an enthusiastic reaction to Homes Now. Accordingly, in the next few weeks, a single, modest advertisement will appear in newspapers across this province in languages accessible to all Ontarians. By filling out a coupon, many hundreds of community groups can become involved for the first time in creating Homes Now. We are continuing to build on the progress this government has already made. In the last year alone, we have given approval to almost 300 sponsors across Ontario to create some 11,000 homes. People have moved into some 4,000 new homes.

Nous continuons les progrès déjà faits par le gouvernement. L'année passée, nous avons donné l'approbation à près de 35 associations de parrainage en Ontario pour créer quelque 11 000 logements; des personnes ont emménagé dans quelque 4000 logements.

People are demanding homes now. This government, providing leadership to our partners across Ontario, has listened and is acting.

1350

RECYCLING

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Our children deserve the opportunity to grow up as environmentally aware citizens with a well-developed sense of responsibility for the quality of life in their community. As part of the enthusiastic response Ontarians are giving to recycling, dozens of schools are starting recycling programs and many more are looking for ways to join their communities' recycling activities.

Yesterday, at the annual conference of the Recycling Council of Ontario, I announced a new provincial program for recycling in schools. The program is called STAR or Student Action for Recycling. STAR was developed by my ministry, the Recycling Advisory Committee, municipal educators and members of the Recycl-

ing Council of Ontario to help schools integrate the recycling with their communities' blue box programs in the most effective and efficient way.

We will select up to 16 pilot schools in communities with blue box recycling to pioneer the STAR program, starting in January 1989. Students will collect fine paper, cans, bottles and newspaper for blue boxes located in each classroom and take them to the curbside for pickup. We estimate the total cost at \$1,500 to \$4,000 per school, depending on size, with the province and the soft drink industry paying two thirds of the startup funding for the pilot program.

Based on the lessons we learn in the pilot program, we intend to expand the school recycling program province-wide next September. We hope every school will be recycling within a couple of years and we estimate the total cost of establishing the STAR program across Ontario at \$10 million.

I invite any school board located in a blue box community to apply to join either the January school recycling pilot program or the September province-wide startup effort.

Ontario will benefit from giving our children an opportunity to apply their boundless enthusiasm and basic good sense to recycling. The environmental lessons learned at school will come home each afternoon, resulting in savings of resources, energy and landfill capacity.

RESPONSES

RECYCLING

Mrs. Grier: Let me respond briefly to the momentous announcement today from the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). We had of course already read about it in the Toronto Star before the announcement was made today, and I am sure that house organ of the government is very grateful for the public recognition it is receiving in the naming of this program. I am also sure the minister will find that the children of this province are way ahead of many of the adults when it comes to protecting the environment and I hope he will begin to follow their lead more closely.

NONPROFIT HOUSING

Mr. Breagh: I want to congratulate the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) on a very fine statement today. I thought it was a fine statement when she made it last year and when previous governments have said the same kind of thing many times before. I think one of the difficulties is that there is a need for some translation

services here. Although the minister used both of our official languages, the public may inadvertently be somewhat misled.

The name of the program is Homes Now. The public should know it does not really mean homes now; it means homes maybe 12 months from now, maybe 18 months from now, maybe two years from now, but not now. One should not be misled by the title of the program.

I was interested in some of the allocations that were made because I think they are worthy of note. Last week in this House, the chamber was engaged in discussion about some very specific proposals put forward by the past chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority to develop actual homes on three specific sites. The ministry last week said no and this week it is announcing new allocations of 1,000 units for Metropolitan Toronto.

It is strange that a very specific proposal made by a person in a position to actually carry it out is turned down and a week later a new proposal is once again renewed. It is interesting to note that for Metro Tenants Legal Services, which, as the minister will know, is one of the few organizations around where tenants can go to see if what they have in terms of a legal right can actually be translated into an actual right, for that very necessary portion of the whole housing situation the allocation is \$10,000.

I would warrant that the single modest ad that will go into newspapers around Ontario will cost more than that \$10,000 allocation. I look forward to seeing this Liberal government put a single modest ad in the public newspapers around Ontario. It will be a first. I doubt very much it will turn out to be one single modest ad, but I will caution all my friends in the nonprofit sector to buy their newspapers regularly for the next little while for fear they will not see that ad and will miss out on their opportunity.

I note too in passing, and I do not think we can miss this, that last year this very same ministry failed to spend about \$52 million of approved allocations, not because the nonprofit groups out there did not have the ideas and not because there was not an opportunity to develop housing starts that would mean affordable housing for people, but very simply because the ministry could not process those applications.

I hope that together with today's announcement, we will find a ministry that is renewed, reformed, born again and can actually handle the applications that are brought forward by nonprofit groups. We will look forward to a great change in the way the ministry itself handles the

applications that come in from nonprofit groups around Ontario. It really needs a change, not of heart and not of good intentions, but of being able to perform.

There is one other point I want to make. It is noticed again here in the minister's statement, and as one reads the fine print that accompanies these things, I think it needs to be clarified. There is almost-almost-a statement here that the government of Ontario, through its budget last spring, allocated \$2 billion for nonprofit housing.

That, of course, is not true. The government of Ontario did not do that. What it did is commendable. It opened up access to Canada pension plan money to nonprofit groups for mortgages, which is good. But I caution the minister again that she has played a little fast and loose with what exactly she did. She did a good thing, but there is no need to extrapolate that into something she did not do.

We will watch with great anticipation to see the minister born again, once more, and hope that this time she gets it right.

RECYCLING

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, you can appreciate how really delighted I am today with the announcement of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), with the pending presentation in this House of my private member's bill. Two days from now, this House will have the opportunity to support Bill 89, which is my private member's bill on the subject of recycling in this province. To have any statement at all by the Minister of the Environment today to do with the subject of recycling obviously makes me very pleased.

I would like to say, however, that I find some of the statements, some of the paragraphs in his statement rather interesting. I recognize that I am not going to criticize the minister for writing his statement because I know he does not do that personally, but I think it is very interesting where he says that "dozens of schools are starting recycling programs." In fact, I know the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) will agree that the schools have seen recycling programs for years while they have been recycling their portables.

I feel also that there is another area that should be addressed and should be encouraged by this provincial Liberal government, if it really is committed to recycling. The minister refers to the fact that, "Students will collect fine paper, cans, bottles and newspaper." Would it not be great if this minister could see his way to having a

five-cent refundable pop can, as they do in the province of Quebec? We would then guarantee that students would collect cans. They would be up and down the roads, up and down the ditches and we would have more materials for recycling than we do today.

Also, it is interesting that the province and the industry are only paying two thirds of the cost of this program. I am wondering how much input the school boards have had in encouraging this program around the province in terms of the cost. I do not know whether the school boards can afford one third of this cost. I hope they can and I hope that when the province realizes how necessary it is, it will be willing to pay two thirds and the industry pay half. We really cannot put any more expenses on the local school boards at this point in time.

1400

I think it does make basic good sense to have children recycle, but as another colleague of mine in this House has said, children are ahead of adults. We have had paper drives involving children for years. I see this as a further endorsement, however, of what children are already doing. I would like to see as an initiative of the ministry something I have suggested many times locally, that we encourage children to bring their batteries to school and learn about recycling batteries.

NONPROFIT HOUSING

Mr. Harris: I too want to comment on the statement by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek). Like the critic from the New Democratic Party, I want to comment on the name Homes Now, like Assured Housing and some of the other names. One wonders, if the minister spent all the money that she must spend on researching, developing and hiring consultants to come up with a catchy name that implies they are actually going to do something on actually doing something, we might not be in some of the messes we are in now.

I find this statement ironic. The promise was 30,000 units over three to five years. The optimist would say three years and the pessimist five years. That means they would be looking at roughly 7,000 units to 10,000 units a year. Now, we are more than halfway through the year and the minister is really proud that she has announced 10 per cent of the units. We will see after the year whether she actually gets the 10 per cent of the units.

When we look at the track record of the minister and the ministry since the Liberals have

taken office, even the optimistic outlook that they will live up to a third of their promise is highly optimistic. We have heard 136,000 units from the previous Minister of Housing, the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling). Then 102,000, downgraded in the campaign to 89,000; then we heard still 102,000 by the new minister, but 90,000; then we heard 91,000, then 60,000 new, 40,000 renovated.

The fact of the matter is, the government is on track with about 25 per cent of that, given the amount of time it has had. We will look forward to seeing whether the minister comes anywhere close to her 25 per cent average for this fancy program announcement that she makes.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses.

Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have unanimous consent of the House to make a statement with respect to the anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution.

Agreed to.

HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Mr. Brandt: I would like to thank the members of the House for unanimous consent to make this brief statement.

I want to take this opportunity to remind the members of the House that October 23 is the anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. On this date, 3,000 students of the Technological University in Budapest began a peaceful protest which quickly grew into a general uprising against the oppression of Stalinist rule. However, two weeks later the Soviet army and tanks, as we all know, entered Hungary and put down the revolution.

At that time, more than 150,000 refugees fled their country to try to find freedom in western democracies. The then Premier of Ontario, Leslie Frost, played a key role in encouraging the federal government to admit more than 37,000 of these refugees to Canada. A great many of them, as we know, settled in Ontario and are now a vital part of our ethnocultural society. They have preserved their heritage while entering fully into the mainstream of life in their adopted country, and their energy and abilities have made a positive contribution to Ontario.

Most of us who have been born in Canada do not fully appreciate our freedom. We tend to take it for granted. The Hungarians who came here after the revolution know what it is like to be deprived of their freedom and civil liberties. They sacrificed much to be able to live in a free country. We salute their heroism and all those

who have struggled and are still struggling to attain freedom from oppressive regimes.

Mr. Fleet: It was at this time 32 years ago that demonstrations against the regime in power in Hungary began, and within a short period of time, indeed thousands of Hungarians joined in the revolt. That uprising was eventually put down by the Soviet army, and the events of that tragic time have had a significant impact on Canada. Approximately 200,000 refugees left Hungary in 1956. Some 37,000 came to Canada, many of them settling in Ontario.

Events such as the uprising in Hungary are an important reminder of how precious freedom and democracy are in this world. Many Hungarians paid with their lives in their struggle to establish these values. We remember them today. We remember the people who are still struggling in many parts of Europe and within the Soviet Union.

We also celebrate the fact that the refugees from Hungary who have come to Canada are part of a vibrant and freedom-loving country as part of our community here in Ontario.

I am sure that all members of this House will join with me in remembering the martyrs of the Hungarian Revolution and its enduring legacy for all Ontarians.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to join with my colleagues in the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party in commemorating this historic day. I am sure, like many people who are my contemporaries, we can perhaps best remember this event by the arrival in our classrooms of kids from Hungary. I certainly can, going back to the fall and the spring of 1956 and 1957.

I think it is an event which all of us remember and see as a historic world development: the first major and dramatic post-war revolt against the Soviet totalitarian government in Hungary. I think it is fair to say that it marked a really dramatic shift in world opinion with respect to the extent and the cost and the nature of that system.

In commemorating the courage of the Hungarian freedom fighters, we are also celebrating the presence in our own community of literally tens of thousands, indeed now hundreds of thousands, of people in this country who are citizens of Hungarian origin, who have contributed in architecture, law, medicine, social work and many, many different fields across the country and who have become such a vibrant part of our national life.

Finally, we are remembering that despite the reality, which is a reality, of glasnost and of

perestroika, the world of political change has yet really to arrive with sufficient force and effect in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Our hearts go out to the democrats and freedom fighters in those countries who continue to fight against an oppressive, brutal system that is desperately in need of change. We all work with those who seek such a change and can only salute those who fight on against great odds and with tremendous courage.

1410

ORAL QUESTIONS

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions today for the Minister of Labour. I wonder if the minister would care to comment on the fact that the number of inspections in the construction industry has declined from 72,000 in 1980-81 to under 40,000 in 1987-88, and while there has been this dramatic decrease in the number of inspections, there has been a very dramatic increase in the number of fatalities, to the point that we now have practically one construction worker a week being killed on the job in the province.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: On the subject of the number of inspections, the reality in inspections within the Ministry of Labour is that the quality of inspection going on now far outweighs anything that was going on in 1980 and 1981. Rather than just the kind of inspections where an inspector would spend a few minutes at a workplace, the new thrust in inspections is to thoroughly examine every workplace during each inspection, particularly in the construction industry.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister's answer is patent nonsense, and he should know it. In 1986-87, there were 360 prosecutions, which resulted in 334 convictions. Last year, after the minister took office, there were only 229 prosecutions and only 192 convictions. We have a dramatic drop in the number of prosecutions and a dramatic drop in the number of convictions at the same time as this minister is parading around saying how thorough his new inspections are. I wonder if the minister can explain those figures.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The number of prosecutions increased from 114 in 1986-87 to 176 in 1987-88. There are now some 156 cases pending trial as of this time. Not only am I satisfied with the rate of prosecutions but I am certainly satisfied with the quality of inspections going on by inspectors within the Ministry of Labour.

Mr. B. Rae: The figures that come from his ministry perhaps are less eloquent than the names and the very brief account we have of the people who have died. Obviously, I do not have time to read out every name and the cause of death in 1987, but perhaps I can just read a few names and ask the minister how he feels about the fact that Norman Mundell, for example, died asphyxiated after clothing became entangled in a drill shaft; another, Jan Vanderwal, bled to death after his right leg became entangled in a tower crane; Daniel Neil fell 28 feet; Stefano Rizzi fell 33 feet from the edge of an open floor perimeter; and the cases, the names and the families go on and on.

How does the minister feel about the number of fatalities, which is growing, and the number of inspections, which is declining, when he has yet to change the law with respect to health and safety committees on the construction sites of this province? How can the minister possibly explain this kind of neglect and abuse of working people, which is taking place every day in this province?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition knows full well that when he names just one person who has died in an industrial accident or on a construction site, it is something all of us in this House and everyone in the province feels for.

Mr. Reville: You've got to do more than feel for this.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just hold on a second.

Every night it is part of my responsibility to review events that have occurred in the province. Obviously, none of us can be satisfied until every one of our construction sites and every one of our industries is organized in a way that minimizes to the greatest extent possible, indeed eliminates, the realities of injury and illness in the workplace.

I tell my friend the Leader of the Opposition that for the past year I have been working with representatives of labour and management to try to find new ways that concentrate on education, training and development of a workplace context that will achieve this objective. When I present that legislation here in the House, I hope I can receive the full support of the New Democratic Party, because I believe the Leader of the Opposition is equally concerned.

Mr. B. Rae: While the minister talks, the fact is that workers are being killed. His delay in bringing in legislation is costing lives, and there are no two ways about it.

My new question is to the same minister. Given the extent of the number of injuries in the

construction field, some 15,000 reported accidents last year, I would like to ask the minister why, in his much-vaunted reform of the Workers' Compensation Act, workers in the construction industry are entirely exempt from the obligation on the part of employers to reinstate and re-employ workers. Can the minister explain that colossal unfairness to workers in the construction industry?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad the Leader of the Opposition has raised that issue because I think the workers in this province who will receive some of the most significant benefits from the reforms in Bill 162 are construction workers.

The reason I say that is that, typically, a construction worker has faced this dilemma with the current system: The worker receives an injury that incapacitates him—perhaps a sprain, a permanent injury to the back—and typically, that injury is classified and rated at about 15 per cent, notwithstanding the fact that very likely that construction worker cannot realistically be expected to return to work in his previous area of employment.

What the new system does is to provide the board with the authorization to fully compensate that construction worker, so many of whom have suffered from an arbitrary and unfair system.

As to the point of reinstatement, the answer is a simple one. Typically, within the construction industry a construction worker receives his employment, goes to his job, through a hiring hall. He does not have an ongoing employment relationship with an ongoing employer in the way workers in the industrial sector would.

For example, for eight months an individual is working at the SkyDome and then, as a carpenter, he moves from there to help build a new hospital, and his employer changes on an ongoing basis. That is the way in which the relationship is organized and that is why the obligation to re-employ under the bill does not fall upon the construction—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister is implying many things. He is implying that all work in the construction industry is fly-by-night, which it is not. He is also implying very clearly that he does not think the construction industry has any collective obligation to its own employees who are injured.

I would like to ask the minister, given his position as Minister of Labour and given his well-known ties to the construction industry, how comfortable does the minister feel with an

exemption which means that the construction industry collectively has no obligation to its own employees? There are 15,000 reported accidents a year, and he is telling the construction industry that it does not owe anything to its own workers. Does he not feel a little ashamed, as Minister of Labour, to be making that statement in the House?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the Leader of the Opposition owes an apology to the construction workers of this province. The fact is, no one said anything about a fly-by-night industry.

What is set out in the bill is an ongoing obligation on employers to re-employ their workers, but the fact is, and the member knows this perfectly well, that in the construction industry, the hiring hall method of recruiting construction teams means that a construction worker typically might work for one employer for eight months and then, when that job is done, move on to another job for perhaps 16 months.

When the member talks about the bill and the construction industry, let me tell him that one of the reasons we raised the ceiling on insurable earnings is that, typically, a construction worker may well be earning \$40,000 or \$42,000 or \$45,000 a year and his insurable earnings are only \$35,000 a year, and that is going to put a substantially higher premium on the construction industry.

Other than that, the vocational rehabilitation provisions in that bill will, for the first time, give a construction worker the real opportunity, if he is not going to be able to work in that industry any more, to find new work that allows him to re-enter the work force, earning in a way that he earned before.

Mr. B. Rae: What he is basically saying is that somebody who has been working in the construction industry for 20 years can go out and flip hamburgers for the last 20 years of his time in the workforce and the minister regards that as satisfactory. That is what he is saying. He is saying that an entire industry that employs hundreds of thousands of workers in this province has no collective obligation to those employees.

Is the Minister of Labour going to stand in his place and say to this House that the construction industry has no legal obligation to its own employees to provide ongoing employment over their lifetimes? Is that not, in effect, what he is saying in this House today?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What I have said in this House today and what the bill provides for is a

situation where employers are under that obligation.

I will reiterate. The reason it does not apply in the construction industry is simply that the ongoing employment relationship in the construction industry with a specific employer is not a long one. Someone might work for construction company A for a month and then construction company B for seven months. It is impossible to identify the employer upon whom the responsibility should be. But one would think that with a new dual awards system that will appropriately compensate construction workers for the real losses they have suffered, and with the raising of the ceiling the people who should be celebrating this bill are construction workers in this province. If the honourable member talks to most of them, they know that.

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Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was willing to talk—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You are wasting time. New question, the member for Sarnia.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. As the minister is aware, the municipalities of Peel, Durham, York and Metro Toronto, in addition to many others across this province, are literally going to exhaust the existing amount of landfill space they have at this particular time. They literally will have no room for the thousands of tons of garbage their municipalities are generating.

Will the minister not agree that we are facing an emergency with respect to this province: in effect, a garbage crisis in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: For a long period now, including the time during which the member who asked the question was the Minister of the Environment and his government was in power, municipalities across Ontario have gone through a process whereby they are attempting to find or are supposed to attempt to find environmentally the best sites for landfill sites, or for other facilities to deal with either the disposal or the management of waste. In fact, right across Ontario, not only are those master plan studies going on, with plenty of input from the people in various areas, but in many cases they are issues that are now before the Environmental Assess-

ment Board to be dealt with by the Environmental Assessment Board.

I believe, with the discussions we have with officials from our ministry, officials of the various municipalities, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and others, that we are finding solutions to problems which exist and have existed for some time; but what we want to ensure is that the answers we find are environmentally sound answers. I know that the member, from his time on this side of the House, would be a person who would be concerned about that as well.

Mr. Brandt: I am concerned and I would like to hear the minister's solutions to some of these problems. The minister did not indicate or agree with me that we do in fact have a garbage crisis, but I would like to remind him of his comments in a speech he gave on October 22. It is interesting how these things come back to remind us of what we have said on a previous occasion. He said at that time, "It is now time to tackle Ontario's garbage crisis"—almost the same words I used—so the minister does agree with me that we are heading into a garbage crisis in this province.

He also knows he has certain powers under the Environmental Protection Act, and I will quote to the minister from a letter he sent to a municipality: "The Minister of the Environment can order waste to be accepted at a disposal site in cases where the municipality generating the waste is not included in the site certificate of approval."

When Peel, Durham, York and Metro Toronto run out of space, as they undoubtedly will, on the basis of the minister's own time frames, can the minister tell this House which counties, which regions, which areas of Ontario he is going to force to accept the millions of tons of garbage which are going to be generated at that time?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: Tell us simply where it is going to go.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am not nearly as pessimistic as the leader of the third party, who is trotting this out on a daily basis, attempting to establish himself some ground in this House. I do not share the degree of pessimism he has, because I think there are people of goodwill across Ontario who are working along with the Ministry of the Environment towards solutions.

Of course, with the snowballing effect at the present time of our recycling programs in this province, we are in fact diverting more and more waste on almost a daily basis from landfill sites and from incinerators across the province. It seems two or three times a week yet another

municipality has launched a blue box recycling program.

Last week I was in Guelph, which is one of the innovators in this field. Guelph is going beyond the blue box program. They are into apartment recycling, composting and a number of new initiatives that we believe are going to divert a good deal of that material from landfill sites in this province.

So I am not nearly so pessimistic. But I did watch the member's party the other day when it had its little emergency debate so that it did not have to deal with other legislation. They had their emergency debate, and every member who got up contradicted the other member. Now, of course, I could ask the member for his suggestions on where he might—

Mr. Brandt: If the Minister of the Environment is all done with his response, when we talk about co-operation and not being pessimistic, I would like to remind the minister of what he did co-operatively in October 1987. At that time, the minister forced the Keele Valley landfill site to accept some 25,000 tons of garbage a year from six municipalities in Simcoe because there was no other place for them to put their garbage at that particular time.

The minister did that against Metro's wishes. I hope that the response from his staff is going to be adequate to the question I am going to raise with him. I will give him time to read it. Without the knowledge of Vaughan township, this particular measure was taken by the minister. I would like to indicate to the minister that, in some two years, Metropolitan Toronto will have no place whatever to put some 55,000 tons of garbage a week.

I call that an emergency. Which counties, using the minister's emergency powers, is he going to order to accept the waste that is being generated by the municipalities that have no place to put their waste?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is interesting that the member should raise that particular issue, and I am glad he did so. I remember it was his government, and he was the Minister of the Environment for part of that time, that was prepared to allow the Pauzé landfill site in Perkinsfield to stay open, despite the fact that there were identified problems with that.

Now, some of the people in that area wanted to have this government continue to allow the Pauzé landfill site to be used. When we were in opposition we said that we would close the Pauzé landfill site, and we have fulfilled that obligation. Metropolitan Toronto co-operated in this

regard and allowed for room in the Keele Valley landfill site, which, in effect, amounted to three weeks' capacity in the landfill site. I commend Metropolitan Toronto for that.

As for the other contention that the member has put forward that there have not been approvals of waste disposal facilities, that is nonsense. We have a number of those instances.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That matter has been dealt with. New question, the member for Carleton.

DAVID ATKINSON

Mr. Sterling: This is to the Attorney General. Yesterday I asked him questions relating to one David Atkinson, who was, to put it mildly, a person with a very chequered past. Was the Attorney General personally involved in the decision to grant this man immunity from further prosecution and to give him a new identity under the witness protection program, and was the minister involved in the plea bargaining to give him a suspended sentence for his pending charges?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to answer the honourable member's question by saying that the director of the witness protection program in the ministry is a staff member of the ministry responsible to the deputy. It is his duty to review applications that are submitted locally by crown attorneys for admission to that program, and he did that. I did not participate in that decision, though because of the honourable member's interest in it I have reviewed it as carefully as I can.

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On the other hand, determinations that are made in the counties and districts of Ontario as to recommendations as to sentence that are made by our crowns are made by them acting as my agents but with the discretion to make the decision that is appropriate in all the circumstances of the case. Therefore, I did not participate in that decision, but because of the honourable member's interest in it I have reviewed it, I understand it and I think it was the right decision.

Mr. Sterling: Yesterday we heard how important this particular case was with regard to the seriousness of the crimes which other individuals had committed. With regard to the background of this individual, the evidence that has now come to light through newspaper reports and through other reports that have come forward since that time, can the Attorney General tell me:

one, since this case was so important, why was he not consulted and personally involved; and two, if he was not personally involved, as he has indicated, does this not in itself point to a problem in the process whereby a deal is made behind closed doors and the public, in essence, is not represented in a larger sense? Can the Attorney General tell me who exactly was involved in making the deal?

Mr. Speaker: You have placed two questions.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The decision as to the conduct of the case is made by the crown attorney of the county of York, who in this case appointed Glen Orr, a senior deputy, to conduct the negotiations. The entry to the witness protection program is made by a senior director in the ministry.

As I indicated to the honourable member yesterday, these decisions are not unique or unusual events. It is constantly necessary, particularly in dealing with gangs devoted to robbery or in the drug trade, to rely on the evidence of accomplices. That has been going on for a substantial period of time and it would not be desirable or appropriate for the Attorney General to be involved in every single case.

However, I do want to bring to the honourable member's attention, to evidence the importance of the matter, a comment made by one of the defence counsel. One of the defence counsel, the one the Globe and Mail phones, thinks that this witness was unnecessary. The other defence counsel, whose client was sent away for a long period of time, had this to say, and his name is Paul Tomlinson, an experienced member of the defence bar; the quote in the paper is: "Although Atkinson is clearly a violent man," one of the defence lawyers involved in the case said, "the gang would never have been caught without his evidence. Police use informants extensively. Half the arrests would not be made without them," said Paul Tomlinson, noting the gang had been under investigation for seven or eight years."

It is regrettable that the evidence of accomplices has to be used to provide evidence of identification, but it is right to do it. It is done all over the western world and what is important is that it should be done under a regular system and carefully, as it was done here. I thank the honourable member for his interest.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thought this was the last. I didn't know he got another go.

Mr. Sterling: The Attorney General should know the rules of the House as well as he knows the rules of the court.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I just didn't know you were going to be chosen as leader. I thought it was Alan Pope.

Mr. Sterling: It is interesting that the Attorney General draws from counsel whose client is presently serving a long term with regard to this particular matter. In that his deputy director of the crown law office, Murray Segal, has said: "Sometimes, in dealing with a witness...we try to find out about their background.... We try our best, but we are not perfect."

In that, there is an admission that before a decision was made by the Attorney General's people, they did not have all of the evidence before them. In the light of that and the serious background that this particular individual has, and since we have seen really a failure of the witness protection program, I would ask the minister to order a public review of this particular case and the whole witness protection program. Will he consider doing that?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not agree with the premise of the question. I think the fact that a public servant, or indeed even a politician, admits that not every decision is necessarily perfect does not mean that any particular decision is wrong. We have carefully reviewed this decision. I believe that the right choices, in a difficult circumstance, were made. My friend wants an inquiry. Of course, that is always what my friend wants, an inquiry.

The reality is that there has been a full inquiry. The matter was carefully canvassed in the preliminary inquiry court before a judge because the defence lawyers were trying to illustrate—and this is their duty—that an advantage had been given under which this evidence was procured. No judge has accepted that proposition, notwithstanding that the matter has been fully disclosed in evidence and debated at considerable length. The inquiry, in fact, has been held.

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister explain when he is going to open up his new parks policy in this province for province-wide consultation, as was promised by the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) on the Labour Day weekend in Temagami?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We have provincial parks to the number of 217 that are under regulation. We have some 53 that are still to be regulated.

There is going to be very much public involvement in the regulation of some of those remaining parks.

Mr. Wildman: That's not what we're talking about.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not care to hear what the member says as a supplementary until he puts it. So if he will just listen for a minute, I will explain the whole situation.

The fact of the matter is that the member was absolutely right, that the remaining parks to be put—

Mr. Wildman: That is not what he said.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Is the member going to listen or is he going to talk? The fact of the matter is that the remaining parks that are to be put under regulation are going to have widespread public input on their planning.

I am pleased that a member from northern Ontario has taken that kind of interest and that he is going to participate in those hearings as to the planning of those remaining parks. If he has a different interpretation, so be it. He generally has on every issue, as was the case yesterday when he made comments on interim supply that were not appropriate and, in fact, were not the case at all. So I take with a grain of salt the kind of things that he says in this House because most of them are patently untrue.

Mr. Speaker: I know the minister was very, very careful, but it just seemed as if—I would like to ask the member to withdraw those words.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have the evidence, but if you do not wish me to put it, I will change the point I made and say they are generally unfounded.

Mr. Speaker: I am glad you have retracted. Thank you very much.

Mr. Wildman: An official of the minister's own staff in his ministry, Norman Richards, stated flatly and is quoted in the Northern Daily News on Friday, September 16, in this way. He says that the ministry is not reviewing its provincial parks policy.

Who is telling the truth? The statement was not in regard to new parks that have not yet been regulated. It was in regard to the parks policy the minister announced last spring. I would never say it, but there are many people in northern Ontario and many in Timiskaming who are accusing the member for Timiskaming of trying to have it both ways and not being prepared to tell the truth to his own constituents. Which is right? Is the minister reviewing the parks policy or not?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: As I said before, I have difficulty with the member because of the comments that were made during his debate in interim supply. So really I have to take with a grain of salt the way he is posing this question.

The fact of the matter is that there is a great deal of public input yet to be participated in in the regulation of many of the parks in this province. I am very certain that the member he is talking about is going to participate. He does an excellent job representing the people of that area. He will continue to do that, and I am proud to be sitting with him over here.

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Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston), if he is not out managing something or other.

Mr. Speaker: I do not see the Chairman of Management Board. Perhaps you would ask another minister, or another member.

ONTARIO FARM-START

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Can the minister give me the exact date when his Ontario Farm-Start program ran out of money?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am not too sure I can give the member the exact date; I do not always have those specifics at my fingertips. I will sure get the information for the member, but it does show how popular that program has been.

When we established that program, we thought we could maybe help about 2,300 new entrants into the farming enterprise over the next five years, on the basis of the historical entrance over the last five or 10 years. It just so happens that we received well over 300 applications for this Farm-Start program within a period of a few months after we announced it, so I am very pleased that it has struck a real chord with the young farmers out there.

Mr. Villeneuve: The minister's press release is dated July 25, and it was initiated as a five-year program. It lasted barely five months and ran out of money.

When we couple this with the performance of this minister and this government—the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program was cut by 60 per cent, the Farm-Start program is out of money about 40 months before it is supposed to be, and there is a whole litany of things happening here where agriculture is being relegated to the very bottom of the ladder—what is the minister going to do to replace his very, very unproductive Farm-Start program?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Agriculture has not been relegated to the bottom of the ladder. I am going to tell the member opposite that never was there the spending on agriculture over the many years the Tories were in government that there has been since the Liberals formed the government three years ago.

Mr. Villeneuve: What are you going to do with this brochure? Replace it.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I trust that the honourable member posing the question can also read. If he cares to read the brochure, he will find in that brochure that there was so much money made available for the Farm-Start program, and when the applications were received and considered, once the money was spent—

Mr. Villeneuve: It said five years. Five years.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: No, the program runs over five years; but once the money has been committed, there are no more applications accepted. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Maybe I should remind all members of standing order 24(b), that when one member is speaking, all other members should not speak.

LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Get ready, Margaret; here it comes.

The residents in the region of Peel are very concerned about the controversy surrounding the selection process for a landfill site in that community. The ministry has been criticized by members opposite, most notably by a former member of Peel regional council, for ordering Peel to revisit five previously discarded sites. Regional council has loudly criticized this decision but, as time goes on, the people are learning the true facts surrounding the minister's decision and the original decision of Peel council to eliminate those five sites.

My question is, can the minister explain the reasons for his decision and tell the House if Peel council is unanimously opposed to that decision?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: To answer the second part of the question first, I would simply say it is not the case that it is a unanimous decision of criticism. In fact, I have a letter from Councillor Peter Robertson, who indicates that he is certainly in agreement with what I have had to say. He said: "May I congratulate you and your government for the courage you took to intervene in the region of Peel's landfill search. The process was certainly flawed. Not only has the

region not completed a fair comparison of A to E to the numbered sites, but it has acted in a prejudicial way on several occasions.

"Your decision saved us all a costly court challenge, saving us both time and money." He goes on to say, "The present posturing and theatrical orchestrations of some particular politicians to freeze land development is simply to divert the attention from the region and to place the pressure from the development community on to the provincial government and your ministry."

The question was asked, is this unanimous, and I say it is not unanimous. The reason it was selected, of course, was a straight environmental reason; we want to ensure that every site that has environmental potential is looked at very carefully. I am optimistic that could be done in a reasonable time frame.

Mr. Mahoney: By way of supplementary, I was there—

Mrs. Marland: You were there.

Mr. Mahoney: —as the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) points out—

Mr. Brandt: How did you vote?

Mr. Mahoney: I am quite willing to stand and be counted. I was there when the five sites were discarded. Site B, the first site eliminated, was thrown out for economical reasons, not for environmental reasons, and the rest of the sites were discarded for purely political reasons. I am proud to say I voted against discarding those sites for political reasons.

Mrs. Marland: How can you say that? It was a unanimous decision except for Ellen Mitchell.

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Mahoney: Some members in this House and regional council are blaming the minister for—

Mr. Brandt: Oh, you're out on a plank on this one, feller.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Callahan's contradicting you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I don't mind waiting. I will once again ask the member for Mississauga West for a supplementary.

Mr. Mahoney: My supplementary question to the minister is that he is being blamed for delays caused as a result of his decision. Could the minister comment on these delays and give some details of the time required to correct the errors of the past?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I just happen to have that information and I will reveal it very quickly.

In August 1981, the region of Peel began its waste selection process. In December 1983, site B became the preferred site. May 23, 1984, Peel region council rejected site B shortly thereafter. The council decided to drop all five sites, A through E, and to begin the environmental assessment process over.

At the time, Peel council was told that its actions were wrong by its lawyer, David Estrin, by the director of waste management and by the commissioner of public works, Frank Conlin and Bill Anderson respectively. Peel was also warned by the Ministry of the Environment staff that this was a flawed decision.

In June 1987, they received two further letters from the former Deputy Minister of the Environment, Rod McLeod, who on both occasions indicated problems. In March 1988, the region of Peel finally submitted—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question.

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INCINERATOR ASH

Ms. Bryden: I have a tougher question for the Minister of the Environment.

Just after residents in my riding in east-end Toronto succeeded in getting rid of the biggest single source of dioxin in Ontario—namely, the Commissioners Street incinerator—they have now learned that incinerator ash from the recently expanded Ashbridges Bay sewage treatment plant is being dumped by the Metropolitan Toronto works department in unlined pits on sewage plant property within a few hundred feet of the 250 community vegetable gardens and less than a mile from thousands of homes in my riding and the riding of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville). It does not appear that ministerial approval was sought for this operation, and Metro works has admitted that there are dioxins in it and Pollution Probe has expressed concern about the content of the ash.

I would like to ask the minister, will he exercise his mandate to protect east-end residents, plant workers, Leslie Street Spit users, vegetable growers and the general public from potential air, land and water pollution from this stockpiling operation by issuing a stop-work order?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I thank the member for the question, first of all, and the detail she went into in asking the question, because it has been a matter of some public interest in the last few days. I believe there was a press conference that was called by one of the candidates for public

office and there was a revelation at that time of this material.

As a result, we immediately put to work the investigations and enforcement branch upon learning of this complaint, and our investigations and enforcement branch is continuing its investigation to determine whether in fact there has been any violation of laws of Ontario, of a certificate of approval of the Environmental Protection Act. They are taking into consideration all of the factors that exist in this case as to what responsibilities Metropolitan Toronto would have in this case as to particular placement and the conditions under which that was placed.

In addition to that, I understand that the health department of Metropolitan Toronto has also been involved in this and has brought a report to the attention of the council.

Mrs. Grier: The minister must recognize that this incident in Metropolitan Toronto has exposed yet another enormous loophole in his regulations, that loophole being that incinerator ash is exempt from being described as hazardous waste. The minister also knows that incinerator ash is often highly toxic and, because of this exemption, is going into landfill sites that are not engineered to take it properly or to hold the leachate.

Can the minister give this House some assurance that the loophole will be closed, that it will be closed quickly and that, in the meantime, there will be no further dumping of incinerator ash into unlined landfills unless that ash has been thoroughly and independently tested?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: First of all, there are two kinds of incineration processes that take place, and I know the member would want me to clarify that. One is the incineration that takes place as a result of an energy-from-waste facility or a garbage incineration facility. The other is the facility that is located at Ashbridges Bay, which is for the purposes of sludge incineration. So we have two different circumstances, but I just know the member would want me to clarify that.

I can simply tell the member that the investigations and enforcement branch was in attendance, for instance, at the public announcement that was made, has been in the process of interviewing officials of Metropolitan Toronto and will complete a full investigation.

As for the issue of ash, the member would be interested to know that I believe I read in the paper today that the Environmental Assessment Board and the Ontario Municipal Board combined joint hearing in Peel approved an incineration process there that is an energy-from-waste

facility, and listed a number of conditions that I think the member and I would both find rather interesting and that I believe offer a good future in terms of any of these facilities, because they address the very issue that I have expressed concern and the member has expressed concern about.

LITHOTRIPSY MACHINE

Mr. Eves: Could the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet tell us whether he would be in favour of saving the Ontario taxpayers some \$2.2 million a year and, at the same time, improving the quality and the availability of a health service to the residents of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are always interested in suggestions that provide better service to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Eves: The Chairman of the Management Board has exactly the opportunity to do this. All he has to do is approve the funding of an additional lithotripsy machine in Ontario, which pulverizes kidney stones—as I am sure he is aware as the former Minister of Health—to realize this saving. Ontario now spends in excess of \$3 million a year to send patients out of the province. If done in Ontario, it would cost the Ontario taxpayer only \$735,000 a year.

The issue does not need any more study, as was suggested by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) last Friday. The need for lithotripsy has already been examined by the Scott task force. Any urologist across Ontario will tell you the effectiveness of this treatment.

Will the Chairman of the Management Board be in favour of immediately approving the acquisition of one of these machines right now in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Because of my previous role, I can feel a speech coming on, actually. I have dealt with this before. There are, for the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the procedure and the piece of technical equipment that is required, several details which might be of assistance. On your direction, Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to go into some detail about those items. However, if you wish me to address myself more particularly to the question, I will.

There is no question, as the member says, that there are advocates around the province with respect to every piece of high-technology equipment that is available and that there are uses which are being promoted right across the province.

The reason I answered the member's first question on the basis that we are always willing to consider suggestions that will provide better health care to the people of the province is that my colleague the Minister of Health has been very firm in letting the people of the province know that we will pursue all of those areas in which the health and the quality of health care in this province will be promoted.

That being said, we will take the lead from the ministry that has the expertise and from the studies that are being undertaken. As the honourable gentleman has just said, the Scott task force and others are looking at utilization and other particulars with respect to technical equipment. I can tell the member that in the opinion and judgement that will be brought to us by my colleague, the Minister of Health, we will consider all kinds of opportunities to increase the quality of health care.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Ms. Hart: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services respecting the Social Assistance Review Committee. The SARC report, to its credit, dispels many of the myths and misconceptions surrounding who actually receives social assistance. In fact, 41 per cent of the people receiving social assistance in Ontario are children. This translates into 210,000, or nine per cent of all children in Ontario, a number of whom obviously live in my own riding.

I am concerned that the financial disadvantages experienced by these children may affect their academic performance and length of stay in the school system. Could the minister comment on the academic performance of the children in receipt of social assistance as compared to other children?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: There is a reference in the report to the Ontario Child Health Study that was done at McMaster University by Dr. Dan Offord. It indicates that, when compared with other children in the province, those who come from welfare families—that is the expression that is used—exhibit three times the likelihood of having difficulty in school or of having serious emotional or behavioural problems. The report refers to that as one of the bases for improving the ability of welfare families to become, once again, independent.

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Ms. Hart: Many people, and I am among those people, believe that education is the primary means by which one can improve his or

her lot in life and become self-sufficient. Could the minister tell us what recommendations are contained in the SARC report that would provide incentives to children receiving social assistance to remain in school? Is there anything we can do to help these children out of the cycle of poverty?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would suggest that the major recommendation in the report, which would impact directly on children and indirectly on their families, is that which suggests a children's benefit should be part of a national-provincial scheme. The main impetus behind that recommendation is that the children's benefit would follow the family whether it was on income support or not, depending upon the total income of the family.

However, there are a number of other suggestions in the report. There are at least three that speak to the whole question of literacy. There are a couple that speak to the question of improved child care for welfare parents. There is one that speaks to the school system with respect to co-operative education and the advantages it has for all children, including those from welfare families. So there is a significant recognition and a series of recommendations within the report that speak specifically to this issue.

ENERGY PRICES

LES PRIX DE L'ÉNERGIE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development with regard to an economic development initiative that was brought up in the final report of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, which reported on the free trade issue just last week. This recommendation is of particular interest to northern Ontario. It asks that "the government of Ontario implement a program to reduce energy prices in...areas such as northern Ontario to encourage economic development... while at the same time presenting a direct challenge to the dangerous energy provisions of the free trade agreement."

This is one worthwhile initiative that definitely came out of this report, supported by members from all three parties on the committee. I would ask the minister whether he is supportive of that recommendation that we use energy pricing as an economic development tool in the north, at the same time challenging the free trade agreement, and if he is supportive, what he is doing in order to see that such a policy is implemented.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Monsieur le Président, à la question du député de Sault Ste. Marie je dois répondre que, depuis trois ans, mon ministère et

le Premier Ministre (M. Peterson) de cette province préconisent l'utilisation de l'énergie dans le Nord de l'Ontario comme outil de développement. Cette idée-là ne vient donc pas seulement du Comité.

Alors, je suis certain que présentement, au sein du ministère de l'Énergie, on étudie cette recommandation-là. Moi, je ne l'ai pas lue mais j'en ai entendu parler. Une chose que je peux dire, c'est que je suis d'accord, en principe, qu'on doit utiliser l'énergie du Nord de l'Ontario comme outil de développement. Ce sont des choses que j'ai dites pendant au moins trois ans dans tous mes discours.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The minister claims he agrees with the initiative, but I would request that he look at what specifically his government has done about it.

The minister knows that Hydro-Québec uses lower energy prices in northern Quebec to stimulate the economy there, and I understand the minister has made positive statements about that in the past.

At the same time, we have recently had released a survey from the Ministry of Transportation, *Public Attitudes Toward Provincial Highways*, in which it clearly shows that northern drivers in fact have double the mileage, because of the distances we have up there, compared to the south, which means we have a tremendous penalty in terms of gasoline taxes that we are paying to the province of Ontario.

Why does the minister not do something and bring this up within his government so that we see a positive initiative now challenging the free trade agreement and at the same time one that could provide some real economic stimulus for development in northern Ontario? What specifically is he going to do?

L'hon. M. Fontaine: En réponse à la question du député de Sault Ste. Marie, je peux lui dire, premièrement, que je suis encore le ministre du Développement du Nord. Je crois que le point qu'il soulève, ça fait longtemps qu'on y regarde et qu'on y travaille.

I want to remind the member for Sault Ste. Marie that I am not the Premier (Mr. Peterson). I am sure the Premier will make his point on free trade with his cabinet. Second, I want to remind him that I am still the Minister of Northern Development. Still, I know sometimes he wants to act as minister, but I want to remind him that we are working on these specific issues.

I want to remind the member for Sault Ste. Marie that a year ago we put some more money into highways. Instead of lowering the price of

gas, we put the money into highways. I asked my ministry today at the management meeting to review again this price of gas policy, which every government has studied. The previous government had a royal commission on it, but it did nothing. At least last year we made a decision to put the money into roads instead of reducing the price of gas. That is what we did.

About the hydro rates, I want to remind the member for Sault Ste. Marie that Quebec is Quebec. They have different rules from Ontario. Ontario is under the Public Utilities Act. Right now I am sure the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong), together with Ontario Hydro, is looking at this point to see what they can do to encourage Hydro to participate more in the economy of the north.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question to the Attorney General. In spite of repeated requests, from both the town of Almonte and the town of Carleton Place, both of these municipalities have been without a justice of the peace for an extremely long period of time. In view of the importance of the justice of the peace function and the fact that my constituents now have to drive to Perth or Smiths Falls to see a justice of the peace, when will the minister appoint those justices of the peace, both in Carleton Place and Almonte?

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member was absent the day we congratulated members who had served—I forget whether it is 17 or 117 years—in the House, I would just like to offer my congratulations to the honourable member. Perhaps I should ask, is the honourable member thinking of retiring? Is that what focuses the question in the honourable member's mind? If he is, he has only to write me.

Having said that, I want him to understand that I am looking seriously at making these appointments. As the honourable member will know, there is in Orders and Notices a justices of the peace bill that will reorganize in a fundamental way and in a very progressive way the justice of the peace system. We are very anxious not to expand it until that bill has come forward and we have had the comments of members of the House on it.

Having said that, I recognize the need to provide service. I would be glad to look into the question that the honourable member has raised, if he does not ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Wiseman: I appreciate the fact that the minister has offered me a job if I intend to resign,

but I want something a lot better than that if he wants to get rid of me.

The minister knows I have written to him many times with suggestions not only from the townspeople who have brought names forward but from the Liberal associations in both Almonte and Carleton Place, which have put names forward. This has been going on ever since the Attorney General assumed this position, in the case of the town of Almonte. I believe one or two of the people who have been recommended by not only myself but the Liberals should be appointed to that. We should not have to wait another two or three years to have a justice of the peace in those two municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member begins by saying that in order to provoke his resignation we will have to do better than that for him. I want to say clearly that I take a different view of the office of justice of the peace. I regard it as an important judicial office. On behalf of all those who serve in the office, including those in Lanark county, I want to say that I do not accept the honourable member's comment. I regard this as an important office.

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Having said that, I want to acknowledge publicly that the honourable member has certainly sent to me the name of probably every person he knows in Lanark county who might by any stretch of the imagination be eligible for the appointment. The question for me is not to collect names in that fashion, but rather to determine the needs of the community and to determine how those needs can be most effectively met, as we move forward to the important act of considering and passing the Justices of the Peace Act.

I want to look very carefully, and will do so, at the needs of the county. If we can respond and if it is appropriate to respond in the way the honourable member suggests, I will do so. I of course will look very carefully at the names, many of which will be known to other members of the opposition, that the honourable member has been good enough to provide.

PETITIONS

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition containing 102 signatures. The petition originated in the village of Arthur but contains signatures from people in Guelph, Mississauga, Cambridge, Kitchener and many other municipali-

ties. It is addressed to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"This letter is in protest of removing the Lord's Prayer and Bible scripture reading from the public schools in Ontario.

"There are many children who would benefit from hearing and learning the Lord's Prayer."

This is signed by 102 people, and I have a similar petition signed by 22 people.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Hampton: I have a petition. It originates with the Stratton Senior Citizens Friendship Club in the village of Stratton and is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

It bears the signatures of some 27 individuals, and I have affixed my signature to it.

MADAWASKA HIGHLANDS REGIONAL TRUST PARK

Mr. Wiseman: As well as 748 letters, I have brought today a petition with 33 of my constituents' names, which reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Re: Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust.

"A proposal has been set forth to establish the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust, controlling an area of approximately 4,000 square kilometres of crown and private land. This area affects the counties of Hastings, Lennox and Addington, Renfrew, Frontenac and Lanark.

"We, the undersigned, are in full support of the efforts of the Ministry of Natural Resources in effectively managing this area and are definitely opposed to the establishment of the proposed Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust."

I support this petition and these letters and have affixed my name to them.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Laughren: This morning a young woman walked into my office, a woman I had never seen before, and handed me this petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed with Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, chapter 539, as amended by Statutes of Ontario, 1981, chapter 30; Statutes of Ontario, 1982, chapter 61; Statutes of Ontario, 1983, chapter 45; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 38; Statutes of Ontario, 1984, chapter 58; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 3; Statutes of Ontario, 1985, chapter 17, and Statutes of Ontario, 1986, chapter 64, section 69."

Members can see the amount of research she did. The petition goes on:

"Because Bill 162 contains the most significant changes to the Ontario system of workers' compensation contemplated for many years, and yet the Minister of Labour, as reported in the media, wants the bill passed and implemented by the end of 1988—in other words, without an adequate process for public consultation, debate and discussion; and

"Because Bill 162 represents an attack on injured workers and their families and all of those people who have fought over the years to achieve fairness and justice for injured workers and their families; and

"Because Bill 162 will eliminate the current lifetime pension for lifetime disability and replace it with a dual award system combining a lump sum and actual wage loss award benefits that has been rejected by injured workers, their advocacy groups, community legal workers and lawyers working on their behalf and by the trade union movement since it was first proposed for implementation in Ontario by the 1980 Weiler report and the Conservative government's 1981 white paper; and

"Because Bill 162 virtually ignores the devastating critique and recommendations of the Majesky-Minna task force report on vocational rehabilitation that was submitted to the Minister of Labour and suppressed by the Liberal government until April 1988; and

"Because Bill 162 gives legislative form to the unacceptable and reactionary policy of restricting access to supplement awards announced by the Workers' Compensation Board in 1987; and

"Because Bill 162 restricts an injured worker's right to appeal decisions within the adjudication process and elsewhere, notably the percentage 'impairment rating' and reinstatement; and

"Because throughout Bill 162, injured workers are made subject to increased discretionary power at the hands of Workers' Compensation Board functionaries and made subject to ever more intrusive, invasive and demeaning assaults on their dignity, their privacy and their right to fair and just treatment."

I agree with this petition and I have affixed my name thereto.

RETAIL STORE HOURS .

Mr. Eves: I have a petition signed by 16 of my constituents.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge Premier Peterson not to proceed with the legislation he has announced, but instead to strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; not to pass the responsibility back to local government; and to maintain a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. Eves: I have another petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is signed by 387 of my constituents.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario address the deletion of the Lord's Prayer in our East Parry Sound schools. We are appealing to you to move to have this ruling changed, so that this prayer may be returned as a fit and appropriate beginning for each school day. We think that it is valuable as a prayer and also part of our Canadian heritage, as is our national anthem, containing the words, 'God keep our land glorious and free.' It is the right of all Canadians to have these both, the Lord's Prayer and the national anthem, preserved within the overall educational experience of our children and their children as a lasting heritage from our glorious forefathers."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Ms. Bryden: I have a petition which was dropped off in my office by a resident of Hamilton who wished to bring to the Legislature's attention her views on Sunday shopping.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"I, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and

"Whereas the Premier and other members of the Liberal government have stated the government's intention to change the Retail Business Holidays Act and to dump this responsibility in the laps of the municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Whereas the Legislature's select committee on retail store hours, representing all three political parties in the Legislature, reported unanimously to the Legislature in May 1987 as follows: 'The committee supports the principle of a common pause day in Ontario'; and

"Whereas the report also said, 'The committee unanimously rejects the notion of wide-open Sunday shopping for Ontario'; and

"Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has forcefully put forward its view that leaving the regulation of Sunday shopping to municipalities is not what its members desire; and

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

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"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"I urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I will sign this petition; I support it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Sterling moved first reading of Bill 183, An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Sterling: This particular bill is introduced to address a situation that was discovered in my riding in the small community of Kinburn. In that community, many of the people found to their surprise that the Ministry of the Environment had issued a certificate to allow an owner of land to dispose of human waste over a 10-acre parcel. Evidently, this kind of certificate can be issued by the payment of \$36 and is done without public hearing.

This bill requires that public hearings be held and that the residents who would be affected by the giving of the certificate would have an opportunity to have a say and to put forward environmental and important water quality issues before the certificate was issued.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the remainder of this session.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not intend to speak too long on this matter this afternoon, but I think it is worth having a discussion. I certainly appreciate the fact that yesterday the government decided that since there is an unusual nature to this appointment and the process that has been used, it would be more appropriate that it be given a proper debate in the Legislature here this afternoon.

The first point I would like to make is that I hope, and I am sure the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray) understands, that this discussion and debate that is taking place in the Legislature on this matter has absolutely nothing to do with him on a personal level, that there are no concerns or upset being expressed on this side of the House about him personally in this matter, and the same with the member for Elgin (Miss Roberts). I will certainly, I think, speak for most members of the Legislature—probably all members of the Legislature—in our support and the confidence we had in the member for Elgin who occupied this position until yesterday when she submitted her resignation.

I think it should be made clear that there are no personalities involved in this discussion at all. This is a discussion on the process that has been used by the government and the government House leader in seeing that this position is rotated as the government has decided, a process that we simply cannot accept as being appropriate or

proper for these positions, which are positions for all members of the Legislature, not just members of the Liberal caucus.

I want to run through very quickly what has happened over the last few weeks and why the opposition is so upset about what has happened. I gather the government decided that the parliamentary assistant positions, the chairman of committee positions it appoints and this position would be rotated on an annual basis. We cannot say anything about the appointments of parliamentary assistants; that is certainly totally within the power of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the cabinet of the province. We are not able to nor should we be able to have input into who should receive those appointments, just as appointments for cabinet are obviously at the discretion of the Premier.

But this position is the position of an officer of the House and it is totally and completely unacceptable and inappropriate that the government would see this position as being one of the positions that can be rotated on an annual basis so that all the backbenchers within the Liberal caucus can share the wealth; in other words, access some of the additional money that is available for people who have these types of positions. It is totally unacceptable.

In the past and even under the Davis regime, when Premier Davis and the Conservatives were in power, there was normally a phone call put in to the leaders of the opposition parties checking with the opposition parties to see whether they agreed with the person's name that was going to be put forward for Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House. While I am under no illusion that if we had said to Mr. Davis we did not agree with the names he put forward for those positions, he would necessarily have listened to us, those jobs were, in the past, assigned on a consensus basis and there was consultation with the opposition parties.

That was not the case in this instance. In this particular instance, last Monday, when the Legislature reconvened, is when I first heard that this job was being treated like that of a parliamentary assistant and would be rotated on an annual basis so that all Liberals would have access to parliamentary assistant jobs and this particular job. That is when I first heard about it.

The government House leader then, on Monday afternoon, was talking to me about something else and I asked him about it and he said: "Oh, yes, that's right. We're going to be rotating these jobs and Mr. Ray is going to get the

appointment and the motion will be coming forward." That is the first conversation there was about this matter at all. I raised it with the government House leader a week ago yesterday here because I had heard the rumour.

I then went and spoke to the House leader for the third party who had not heard about it at all. The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), the House leader for the third party, had to hear about this through me. There was no consultation from the Premier, no consultation from the government House leader. "We have 94 members and we'll do what we bloody well please in this place. Be damned to the opposition" is basically the position the government has taken on this matter.

That is simply not going to be acceptable. We cannot stop this particular appointment. The government House leader will know that we raised it last Thursday at the House leaders' meeting. At that particular time I said we did not like the process, that it was unacceptable. The whip for this caucus, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) said—to make it very clear to the government House leader because I had raised the matter with the government House leader and asked when the motion was going to be coming forward—just so that there could be nothing misinterpreted by the government House leader, the whip for our party said to the government House leader: "We want this process stopped. We want the name withdrawn and we want a proper process of consultation." That was exactly the statement the member for Riverdale made at the House leaders' meeting last Thursday.

Mr. Reycraft: You have a wonderful imagination.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The whip for the Liberal caucus is either deliberately forgetting what happened at the House leaders' meeting or there is something seriously wrong with his memory. That was made very clear by the member for Riverdale when he said that we did not agree with the appointment and the process and we wanted it stopped. At the end of the House leaders' meeting last Thursday that point was made.

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We then checked with the government House leader on Thursday to find out when this motion was going to be coming forward. We put a phone call through on Monday morning, yesterday, as well. We did not even have the courtesy of a return phone call. Yesterday, with five minutes left to go in question period, we got a copy of the motion and an indication from the government

House leader that this was going to go forward yesterday—five minutes' notice.

I have not been a member of this Legislature for that many years; I have been a member for 11 years. There were some reforms, as I understand it, between 1975 and 1977 when there was minority government. Before that, I understand that the business of the House was normally just given to the opposition parties with minutes to go and that there was no preconsultation or anything like that at all, but that was changed, as I understand it, in 1975.

I think yesterday was the clearest example that what the Liberal caucus wants, what the government wants, is to turn the time back in this place and go back to the way it was in the early 1970s and 1960s. They want to say to the opposition parties: "We have a majority. We are going to do what we want to do and you cannot stop us." If anything, the message we were trying to convey to the government yesterday was that we are not going to allow that.

We do not have many tools at our disposal, but we will use them in this House if the government continues to proceed in the way it has been proceeding. I want to run through just a few examples of what has happened over the last number of months. If this were one isolated example of what the Liberals were doing, we could say: "Okay, it was a mistake. You should not have done it. Try not to do it again. There are three parties in the Legislature. Try to operate with some consensus." Unfortunately, this is becoming the norm with this particular government.

I am not going to go into all the details, but let us remember last year at Christmas when we had before us the free trade resolution that was brought forward by the government House leader. I cannot remember all the details, but I think there was 24 hours' notice. We had been told there was going to be one motion to refer the matter to committee. Instead, there were two motions, one condemning the deal and one referring the matter to committee. There was no consultation on that; just a word outside the House: "Two motions are coming forward. Pass them if you want to get out for Christmas."

We did not get out for Christmas. We did not agree with the position the Tory caucus took. We wanted to pass a resolution to condemn the deal, but in terms of the process and the lack of consultation, the process stunk and the government was showing its arrogance at that point.

The Sunday shopping bills: Earlier, the government took the position very clearly that it

wanted those bills passed quickly, that it did not want public hearings. We had to go through all sorts of processes to get a commitment—

Mr. Faubert: Not so, not so.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is absolutely so. If the member had been in the House leaders' meetings, he would have seen that there was no commitment from the government House leader for public hearings across the province at all. We had to go through bell-ringing, petitions and all the rest of the things that happened in this House in order to tell the government that the opposition parties are going to have some say on how legislation is dealt with in this place.

The workers' compensation bill, as late as last week: The government House leader obviously learned a lesson with the Sunday shopping bills; he did not let the debate and the wrangling go on for a long period of time on the workers' compensation bill.

But when we had a House leaders' meeting the Thursday before the House convened, we made our request that the workers' compensation bills be sent out for public hearings and there was a discussion about why we would deal with the workers' compensation bills first when we were simply going to be doing them for second reading and referring them out to committee, and public hearings when the House breaks during the winter break.

We did not get a response from the government. We did not get a commitment that there were going to be public hearings across the province. But at the same time, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) was having a meeting with our critic the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) and said very clearly that the bills were going to be passed before Christmas, which of course means there was no intention for the workers' compensation bill to go out to committee and have public hearings across the province.

Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I do that committees do not travel across the province when the House is in session because there are responsibilities here in the House for members. It was not the intention of the government to send the workers' compensation bill out for public hearings across the province, the major changes to the bill, to the way that compensation is provided to injured workers across this province. They did not intend to consult the public; they did not want to. They were going to just rush these bills through before Christmas.

Again, this party said that process was just not going to be allowed. I do not particularly like using tactics like petitions and bell-ringing, but I

know the rules as well as the member knows the rules—perhaps not as well as you, Mr. Speaker, but I am beginning to understand the rules. We had no other options but to try to use those tools provided for in the rules in order to force the government to have public hearings on the workers' compensation bill. We used those, and we intend to use them again. If the government wants to try to ram its legislation through without consultation, without consulting the people of this province, we will use those tactics time and time again.

I would suggest that members of the Legislature should review the proposed rule changes that the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly recommended to the House quite some time ago. I am going to get back specifically to the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House because I think that these proposed rules, which were, as I understand it, unanimously approved by the Legislative Assembly committee and recommended to the House—

Mr. Reyecraft: Not true.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It was not unanimous? There had to be all-party support.

Mr. Laughren: I remember that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: But there was pretty much all-party support. Was there support on the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole? There certainly was when the three whips discussed that section and recommended it to the House leaders. I want to read that section:

"During this parliament and the previous parliament, it is becoming increasingly apparent that an additional presiding officer is required to assist the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole. During those periods when the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House must be absent due to House business, committee business, constituency matters or illness, it would be of considerable benefit to have a fourth person knowledgeable in the procedures and practices of the House and the committees of the whole House and take the chair. It is therefore proposed that a second Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House be appointed. Such a proposal would not require an amendment to the Legislative Assembly Act.

"In the provisional amendments to the standing orders of 1986, provision was made to ensure that members representing all the recognized parties in the House serve the House as chairman of standing committees and gain important

experience in the rules and procedures of the committees of the House.

"It is likewise important that members representing all of the recognized parties in the House have an opportunity to gain experience in the rules and procedures of the House and the committees of the whole House. It is not in the best interest of the House that all of the presiding officers be appointed from only one of the recognized parties in the House. The presiding officers are the officers of the whole House and must represent and protect the interest of all the members in the House. To this end, it is proposed that every effort be made to ensure that two of the four presiding officers be appointed from recognized parties in opposition to the government."

I admit that these proposed rule changes were not adopted by the government. I can say that there was a consensus worked out between the whips from each of the parties and—

Mr. Reyecraft: Not true.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Well, I do not know; one of us is suffering from something. There was a meeting that the House leaders held and there was a proposal that came to the House leaders; the member's caucus rejected the consensus that had been reached. That is why we do not have rule changes in the House.

Obviously, there is a principle that the Legislative Assembly committee was trying to communicate to the House, and that principle is that the officers of the House have to be independent, have to have the confidence of all members of the House and have to be representative of all the parties in the House. That is why they were suggesting a fourth officer, and that is why they were saying that out of the four officers, one at least should be from the opposition parties.

Obviously, also included in that principle is that these appointments are made by consensus and by all the members coming together and agreeing on a particular appointment. Whether that means the election of the Speaker, as we have talked about and was recommended, or whether that means consultation on the other officers of the House, I think the principle remains the same.

1540

No matter how you view the principles in this recommendation, there is no way anyone could agree that the principle of consultation and the principle of a consensus for appointments for the officers of this House could be achieved or recognized in the way that the government has

proceeded with the proposed appointment of the member for Windsor-Walkerville.

There has been no attempt at consensus. There has been no consultation. There has just been a name put forward with minimal notice, no formal notice at all, and an expectation that because the Liberals have 94 members in this place they are going to do whatever they want to do.

I do not think that is appropriate. I do not think most members of this Legislature think it is appropriate. I certainly think that if the government House Leader were honest in this place, he would say that if he were sitting here in the opposition he would not stand for it; he would be just as upset as this party was yesterday when they tried to ram this proposal through.

I ask that the government reconsider this process. I ask that they take some time to see that this appointment is done by consensus. More important, I ask that they really reconsider this for the future. If they think that the opposition is going to stand for this same thing happening again next year when they rotate their parliamentary assistants, it simply will not. They might be able to ram it through this time, but they will not ram it through next time. It simply will not happen next year. They had better reconsider the process and do it properly next year or else there will be even bigger disagreements in the Legislature.

However, because I and this caucus are always attempting to find compromises and solutions so that this place can work better, I would like to put forward a proposal that I think all members of the Legislature could live with. It would see that this appointment is made with consensus and with support from all members of the Legislature.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. D. S. Cooke moves that the motion that the member for Windsor-Walkerville be appointed Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the remainder of this session be amended by adding thereto the following:

"and that the whole procedure and circumstances concerning the appointment of a Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House and of all future appointments to this position be referred to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly for review and report to the House no later than November 14, 1988, and that Mr. Ray's appointment be not concurred in by the House until such time as the report of the committee is received and adopted by the House."

Mr. Harris: I would like to talk about the amendment and indicate my party's support for

the amendment. To be expeditious and to try to facilitate the business of the Legislature, I also would like to address some remarks to the main motion in the unlikely possibility that the amendment does not carry when the time comes. If it does carry, the comments will be appropriate to the amended motion.

My colleague from the New Democratic party, my fellow House leader, has reiterated some of the history of some problems that we as opposition parties have experienced since the September 10 election. He has reiterated some of those events, and I do not want to go through those save to say that I hope, I trust and I sincerely do believe that some lessons were learned through the history of some of those events—the free trade shemuzzle last Christmas and the hearings on Sunday shopping, those two in particular—leading up to events of the past week.

I say that because they were difficult times for us as opposition parties and they were difficult times for the government House leader. My own perception of what occurred is more of an arrogant, 94-seat Premier, who ordered his House leader to run roughshod and demonstrate to the two opposition parties who was in charge after September 10. I believe that put the government House leader in a very difficult position.

I think the example of what occurred at Christmas ought to have taught that arrogant Premier you cannot govern that way. There is a role for the opposition parties, and you must respect that role; you must respect their right to oppose and you must respect debate. There are traditional rules that have been followed by premiers of majority and minority governments from time immemorial in the history of this province.

When it came to Sunday shopping, I think it is apparent that the Premier's and the cabinet's decision was to whistle this through and to deny the full and complete hearings that the opposition parties wanted and indeed that were wanted around the province. I can only speculate but I have every confidence that my colleague the government House leader advised the Premier fully as to the implications of that. The Premier decided to bull ahead anyway and he lost that one.

Given those experiences and given the talents of the government House leader and certainly the abilities he has, which I have come to respect in my time in the Legislature and in my time working as House leader, I think it is apparent

that last week we lost a day of estimates time in this House over the matter of hearings on the Workers' Compensation Board legislation.

I think it is quite clear that the Premier, the cabinet and the Minister of Labour had made a decision: "We're going to have this by Christmas. It doesn't matter what the opposition thinks. It doesn't matter what the injured workers think. We're going to jam it through and have it by Christmas."

I have great sympathy for the government House leader—we owe our positions to our leaders—who must take those marching orders and be the messenger of what I consider to be irresponsible and bad news. You saw what happened, the politics of it; and there are politics involved, let's face it. It is our job to point out to the media, to the public and to the injured workers that this is the agenda of the Premier and the Minister of Labour.

Once that was pointed out, I am sure the government House leader then got his way. I would like to be party to some of these discussions, because I am sure he would have said: "Premier, you saw what happened when you tried to do this with your free trade resolution; you saw what happened on Sunday shopping. Surely you understand that these two opposition parties understand the process and are determined that due process and democracy prevail, that the rights of those interested in the legislation come through."

I would like to have been party to that, when, I am sure, the government House leader—He is not that type of fellow, but the Premier must have felt, "Well, I better just nip this in the bud before somebody says 'I told you so' again." Of course, now there are full, public hearings scheduled for the workers' compensation legislation and that will proceed after second reading and after the House rises for Christmas and takes some break. That may be a misnomer—"rises for Christmas"—but at some point, if we get a break between this session and the next session, there will be some time for those hearings.

1550

Again, I do not think anybody can fault the government House leader for what this Premier decided to do with what he considered to be his right as head of the Liberal Party or his right as Premier as to what were his appointments. I think the arrogance is still showing through. Here we have a man who said, "I am the Premier, so I now have the right to do whatever I want with all these things." He started with the cabinet minister shuffles. I am sure he considered intently

whether there was anybody he could bring in to shore up a flagging cabinet on a number of fronts. He could not find anybody. Quite frankly, I think he may have erred in that decision, but the point of the matter is that it is his decision and his prerogative. We accept that one.

Then the parliamentary assistants: that is his prerogative as well. We understand that historically and precedent-wise it is not our prerogative to be involved in who is going to be a parliamentary assistant. But I think it is arrogant, I think it is wrong to include in that one of the presiding officer positions. I want to talk about that.

The House leader for the New Democratic Party has pointed out historical precedent whereby consultation on these positions has been the order of the day.

The common precedent has been that there be consultation on the presiding officers, certainly on the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and on the deputy Deputy Speaker, as I call the position, but I think it is officially the Chairman of the committee of the whole House.

There may have been occasions when that was not followed. I think the New Democratic Party pointed out to me that it thought there was a year when the former Premier Bill Davis had certainly left it to the last minute or that it felt he had not consulted widely enough. My recollection is that there was an occasion because I remember talking about it in caucus. I think the Premier of the day said, "Yes, I erred."

Yes, that is the precedent, and yes, it does make good sense that if we are going to have people in the presiding officer positions who will be respected and will be considered neutral in those roles by all parties and all members of the House, then at the very least there ought to be some consultation and some consensus on those positions.

When we have a Premier who now lumps it all in with the parliamentary assistants and the political appointments which he is entitled to make, it shows that perhaps he does not care much about the House. Either he just did not put very much thought into it or, indeed, in my view, he is being arrogant about it. He said: "I don't care about tradition. I'm the Premier. I have 94 seats. This is what I'm going to do." That bothers us. I do not think that is healthy. I do not think that leads to the healthy respect one wants for the presiding officers by all members of the House. I think it puts the candidate, the anointed one about whom the Premier has said, "This is my choice, whether anybody else likes it or not," in a very

difficult position. I have some sympathy for the member for Windsor-Walkerville who at some point is going to occupy that position because he has been put in a very difficult position through this process.

My colleague, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) has also pointed out not only the tradition—what would be expected, what would be normal practice, acceptable practice—but also he has pointed out that we are dealing with a Premier who has been quick to point out that he has disagreed with some things that occurred in the past. He wants changes. He wants House rule changes.

I was surprised when I heard the whip from the government party interject that, in fact, there was not the agreement that we thought there was, at least among some representatives of all three parties, and that on the rule changes the position of Speaker would, indeed, be an elected position as it is in Ottawa, that there be four presiding officers instead of three and that the opposition parties would be represented in at least two of those positions.

It seemed to be that they are comfortable with floating out that: "We are going to do things differently. We are going to be fairer. We are going to be more open than those Tories were." They want the credit for that. They want the image. They want to sell out there that this is, indeed, "I'm David Peterson—new open government."

They want that. Yet now we are faced with a situation where, obviously, that is not being considered, even though I would have thought out of goodwill they would be saying: "This is the way we want to go in the future. This is where we want to end up, but you might consider that as practice now." In fact, there is a total lack of consultation by the other two parties to even try to arrive at an informal consensus.

I do not know whether the government whip in his interjection was saying that he disagrees with the presiding officers that the process should be one that would provide for the greatest deal of acceptability and neutrality, once the decisions have been made or not, or whether he just was debating whether his party had agreed with it. Either way, I would suggest to members that his party would be very remiss if it did not agree with that.

That bothered us. How was that brought up? I am one who does not like discussions in public of what happened at House leaders' meetings and who said this and who said what. I do not like it. I guess when we get into these situations and a day

is wasted, as yesterday was wasted, everybody is asked to justify to the public why, essentially, a day was wasted yesterday. One has to justify that.

The matter was not brought forward by the government House leader (Mr. Conway) at any House leaders' meeting. The matter was brought up last Thursday by the House leader for the New Democratic Party saying, "Rumour has it, or we hear a rumour that this is what you intend to do. You made this decision when the Premier announced his parliamentary changes. He was going to do this and he considered it his prerogative without any consultation to do it."

The government House leader, my recollection is, confirmed: "Yes, it is not just a rumour. That is, indeed, what the Premier has ordered. That is, indeed, what we intend to do."

At that point, we expressed our extreme displeasure. We indicated that there would be debate on this matter. Everybody can argue as to when, or the rest of it, but I have to tell members that my recollection is that we would receive some notice of when that debate would be. Normally, when a matter comes up new on Thursday, there is some consideration to allowing parties to caucus.

1600

Mr. D. R. Cooke: What about today, Mike? Is today going to be wasted on it?

Mr. Harris: The turkey interjects, "Is today going to be wasted?" Let me say to him that I hope today is not wasted. I hope the lesson is learned today, because there will be a lot more at stake than one day of the Legislature's time if the lessons are not learned today.

The whole matter of when there is going to be debate, and the whole reason for House leader meetings, is to schedule those debates to provide time to provide caucus time, so that parties can assess their positions and be prepared for it.

I have had subsequent discussions with the whip from the Liberal Party, who indicated to me that he thought that there was an indication that this would come forward on Monday. That was not my understanding, but I want to tell you something. If that was his perception, then it would have been the perception of the government House leader and I respect that.

There was obviously a misunderstanding, because neither the House leader for the New Democratic Party nor I understood it that way. We understood they planned to proceed. We did not know when and we did not have a chance to caucus it.

Yesterday, upon learning that, had the government House leader said, "Oh, okay, I understand your position, you should be allowed to caucus it; let's put it off to tomorrow," we would not have wasted the day. I can only presume that the Premier said, "Jam it to them again and let's go."

I do have respect for the government House leader. I do think that he is learning a very new and difficult role, and my only possible conclusion that I can arrive at is that the Premier still plans to operate, whether tradition has it or not, whether it makes sense or not and whether it is the right thing to do or not, as if he has a 94-seat majority and that does not just entitle him to win all the votes that he wants to win, that entitles him to run roughshod over the process and over the opposition as well. We object to that.

There has been a little time taken yesterday. I think everybody respects our right to debate the motion, which we are doing today. I have told you why I think this process is wrong and why I will not support and my party will not support the motion that has been put forward by the government.

We will support the amendment that has been put forward by my colleague the House leader for the New Democratic Party, the member for Windsor-Riverside, which will try to put some semblance of what everybody, I think, anticipates should be the case, to arrive at a consensus on the presiding officer.

If that amendment carries, then I believe we can go back to what should have happened in the first place. If that amendment does not carry, I want it clear that we will not support the motion and I want it clear that it has nothing to do with the individual involved. It is that process that we take great exception to.

I am not happy to be debating this in this way today. I am not happy that we were not able to deal with supply for more of the day yesterday than we were able to, but I think surely all members of the House must respect and understand the position my party found itself in, the position the New Democratic Party found itself in and, indeed, the position all members find themselves in if the presiding officer, that process, is tainted, if it is not a process that is likely to give nonpartisan confidence in the position.

I hope when this process finishes, whoever ends up in that position—and if it is the member for Windsor-Walkerville, I will certainly not prejudice his merits as an individual, I will assume that he will do an excellent job. I am just

disappointed that the process has tainted the method by which it has come about.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am quite delighted this afternoon to engage in this debate on the amendment standing in the name of the member for Windsor-Riverside, and actually, all the more so because my very good friend the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) has joined us. According to the House leader for the third party, the member from Orono and environs is likely going to engage in some of this debate. I am just very pleased he is going to do so.

I thought earlier, quite frankly, that the third party was going to absent itself in its entirety since there seems to have been a sea of empty blue seats there, but now I see a couple of blue suits. Again, I am very much looking forward to the intervention of my friend the former Deputy Speaker of this Legislature.

I really appreciate what my friends opposite—the member for Windsor-Riverside and my friend the member for Nipissing—have said so far because I have to make a confession. I had a few things to say yesterday and I think, as the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) would probably know, I was a little annoyed. I went home last night and I thought, "Why did I get annoyed?" I thought: "You idiot. You got annoyed because you took your friends opposite more seriously than you ought to have."

That is really the truth of it. I sat here and I thought, "Well, listen to what they are saying and try to square that with your experience elsewhere in these matters that are at issue." I was really getting angry. I went home last night and I had a good stiff drink of water.

Mr. Breagh: Holy water.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Not holy water; not at all. I had a good stiff drink of ice water and I said: "Now, tomorrow this matter is likely going to come back and do not make the same mistake twice. Do not let them get to you," because it is true what the member for Oshawa says; they did get to me yesterday. I have to make a confession to my friend from Jarvis. It was most particularly the member for Windsor-Riverside who got to me because he said and did some things that were, quite frankly, remarkable.

So I begin my comments today, speaking to the amendment, by promising my friends in the assembly that I am not going to be annoyed today. I am going to be my usual, friendly, helpful self.

I have to say to my friends that what really sets the stage for this today is that the two speeches that have preceded this comment make my case

marvellously. They make the case that the issue here is not the matter before us, but it is surely the games people play, the antics of the opposition.

My friend the member for Nipissing is a very shrewd political operator. He has taken that Nipissing seat from its old heyday of Liberalism, and I have to say, turned it around to something of a Harris fiefdom. Living not too far from him, I pay tribute to his not inconsiderable political skills. They are developing apace and I gather he may very well announce his intentions to seek higher office in the not-too-distant future. I just want to say to my friends in the government caucus that those are the reports I hear from Demarco's in downtown North Bay. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the present status, the past accomplishments and the future prospects of the member for Nipissing.

But did the members hear him today? Did they hear what he had to say? The bulk of his speech was the arrogance of the member for London Centre. That, of course, is the message he wants to convey. I think, over the last 12 or 13 months, regardless of the facts of the case, that is the almost predicable refrain of our friend the distinguished member for Nipissing. I do not fault him for that. There are imperatives in the third party that we respect, and that we particularly respect in the third party of Ontario in 1988.

One of my friends said to me the other day: "How could you explain the delaying tactics of these Tories at Queen's Park in 1988? Do they think the business of the Legislature is like the Tory leadership convention in Ontario, something to be delayed to some date in the future, yet to be decided?" I said, "No, I wouldn't ever conclude that." I would not take that view, because I have to believe my friends in the third party want to get on with the public's business.

1610

That is what most of them say. My very good friend the squire of Manotick is now here and he of course has always shown himself, in his time as a member, to be particularly purposeful in all of these matters, whether they are here in the Legislature or, God forbid, involving some travel out of Toronto.

I have to say again that it was interesting when we listened today to what the third party House leader had to say. He really focused his attention on what he thought was the particular arrogance of the Premier. What that has to do with this is of course quite beyond my understanding, but it was the speech that was made yesterday. I say to my friend, because he is going to be a leadership candidate, he is really a very charming fellow.

Mr. Faubert: They're all leadership candidates.

Mr. Reycraft: Aren't they all.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, after yesterday's oration from the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) on multiculturalism, I think our friend from Burlington has taken himself out of the race. What else could explain that outburst?

The thing I like about the member for Nipissing is that he is shrewd, and most of the time he is as charming as it is possible to be. He is so smooth, he is so clever as to be a first-rate instructor for those of us who were new to the House leaders' and whips' table.

But what I have to say, having not interrupted anyone in the second party, is that it always bothers me when I see the putative leader of the Tory party, the member for Nipissing, when he gets into that kind of nasty mood. He does not do it very often. Yesterday, I was walking in the outer precinct and he was saying some things that were really cutting. I cannot imagine that he meant them, but I sometimes get the feeling that regardless of the facts of the case, the Tories simply have this mindset that whatever the government does, it has 94 members and must be a priori arrogant and insensitive and it must all be the Premier's fault.

I have of course altogether too much regard for the capacity of the member for Nipissing to take him seriously on that account, but I just want to say that this is their line; that is the game in which they seem to be deeply occupied. I want to make the observation that it does not appear to matter what the issue around this place is, whether it is this motion, this amendment or whatever else.

What I heard here today about the specifics of this government on its willingness—and the chief government whip is going to get involved in this a little bit later, because in a friendly, helpful way, we want to tell our side of the story to the people out there in Sandwich West and in Sturgeon Falls and elsewhere, because we do not want them, as we can imagine—

Mr. Laughren: Welland-Thorold.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Nickel Belt says "Welland-Thorold." My friends from the peninsula tell me that yesterday morning our dear friend the former member for Welland-Thorold was announcing on the local radio station, "The whole NDP caucus is coming down here tomorrow afternoon," and I said to myself, "That may explain a few things." I do not know whether it is true or not, but they were advertising the fact widely yesterday. The NDP in Welland-Thorold was saying, "The by-election is on and

the whole caucus is coming down here tomorrow," on radio.

Mr. Laughren: It is amazing what you can do with mirrors.

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the member for Nickel Belt says, it is amazing what you can do with mirrors.

What are we to make of these people? I thought we were elected here to do the business of the province in a serious and purposeful way. I say to my friend the member for Nipissing that we, as a government, are very anxious to engage our friends in the opposition, to have a tough debate, to decide, because we believe over here that to govern is to decide and we are prepared to make the tough decisions.

We want to get on with that. Why? Because this government was elected by the people of Ontario to get on with the business of addressing the pressing issues of our economy, our social agenda, our resource development field. That we are doing under the very able leadership of the Premier; that is what brings us here on a daily basis.

We want to get on with the business because we have important, positive and constructive business with which to deal. That is why I wonder when I hear my friends opposite say to me that the government has been somehow unwilling or unco-operative. I have to say I do not feign any perfection. I have to admit that I have made my mistakes. There is no question about that. I will probably make mistakes in the future.

I just have to say that from our point of view, we have accommodated the opposition to a very great extent—far greater, I must say, than I can remember any majority government or minority government led by the Conservatives in the time that I have been in the Legislature ever accommodating us.

I want to come to one of those precedents involving the member for Durham East a little later in this debate. But what can be said of the House leader for the NDP, the member for Windsor-Riverside? I have to make a confession again because I am disposed to like the democratic socialists of this province. I do not know why, because when I think about what they say on the major issues, I sometimes wonder just where it is they are getting some of these ideas but, by and large, my experience over the years with my NDP colleagues has been a very positive one.

Sure, they are tough-minded and they drive a tough bargain. You have not lived until you have sat around a steering committee on a legislative

exercise with the member for Oshawa or the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). I have learned things in those encounters that I shall not soon, if ever, forget. I appreciate that, I say to my friend from Oshawa.

But then there is the member for Windsor-Riverside, and what concerns me is that he is so unhappy. If I ever see the man smile, I will not know where to look or where to turn. This may be unparliamentary, but I sometimes think the House leader for the official opposition is very nearly paranoid. If that is unparliamentary—it might be and I am no clinician.

I tell my friends that in all of my experience in dealing with the New Democratic Party, a wonderful part of our political culture, I have never encountered the likes of the member for Windsor-Riverside. He is so unlike his colleagues. His colleagues, by and large, are tough-minded hard bargainers, people who can really do it to someone, but in a way that—well, what can I say?

Mr. Breagh: It makes you the government. That's what you can say.

Hon. Mr. Conway: That is said perfectly. It makes us the government. But this is background to the amendment because I have to deal with my good friends. I want to deal with them in a very optimistic and open-minded and constructive fashion.

I am just a country boy from the Ottawa Valley, I will admit. I have none of the urbanity and none of the sophistication of the Treasury critic for the official opposition or the Justice critic for the third party. I do not profess to have any of that, but I must say, in the hills and vales of the Ottawa Valley I have never encountered anyone like the House leader of the official opposition, because of this unhappiness, this profound disappointment with his lot in life. I worry about that. I worry about the impact that will have on the progress of public business. I worry about that in terms of the honourable member's political future. I worry about that in terms of his own relations with his colleagues.

The member for Riverdale is the New Democratic whip. I have to tell the members that dealing with the member for Riverdale is an experience quite opposite to the experience that I have in dealing with the member for Windsor-Riverside. The member for Windsor-Riverside comes in—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Well, we are there to balance each other.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I find it extraordinary what it is the member for Riverdale remembers.

By and large, I think the member for Riverdale has one of the best memories in this place and I find myself most often in agreement with what he remembers.

The thing that troubles me most about the member for Windsor-Riverside is that he recites things that I think bespeak a malady that may be more serious than paranoia. I sometimes wonder where this man has been. Has he been to the same meetings in which the member for Nipissing and I have been engaged? What kind of fantasy is he recounting? What kind of experience has he had in that meeting that few, if any, of the rest of us appear to have had?

1620

I know that in the business of politics we all bring a different perspective, we all have a somewhat different agenda. I repeat that the agenda of this government is to get on with the important public business the electors of Ontario sent us, as this Legislature, to do one year and some months ago. That is the priority and that is the commitment of this government, and we intend to pursue that objective in spite of all the delaying tactics and all of the frustration and all of the obstruction.

The other day, the member for Windsor-Riverside engaged yet again in one of his recitations of what he thought had transpired at a House leaders' meeting. I have to say to all of my friends that I sometimes think that maybe the way to do business with the member for Windsor-Riverside is to have an elaborate exchange of letters, put it all down in neat typescript so that no one, least of all the member for Windsor-Riverside, is under any wrong impression. The member for Nipissing and I would never want to do business that way because we generally seem to have the same recollection. Of course, so do the member for Riverdale and myself.

Let me just say that in speaking to the amendment he put, the member for Windsor-Riverside engaged in some—what shall I call it? The member for Windsor-Riverside gave a report of what he thought has taken place in respect of this particular motion and the position of the appointment of a new Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House. I am going to get back to that in one moment.

Again, I say to my friend the member for Windsor-Riverside that I wish he would just stop scowling because it is so off-putting; it ill becomes him. It is time, after 11 years around this place, he became more effervescent, that he became more popular, because we cannot, any of us, stand to look at what is a constantly

depressing, unhappy gaze. It is, quite frankly, upsetting and we just do not, I say in the interest of occupational health and safety, want that to continue.

I want to say that the facts of the case are not at all like the honourable members opposite have recited. Again, of course, we have to remember that I do not believe that the facts of the case are really a principle concern. There are opposition tactics: delay, frustrate, do whatever is possible to not proceed with the public's business. That is apparently their real objective.

To be fair, the member for Windsor-Riverside has made it clear to everybody, at least west of the Grand River, that those are his objectives. He has not said it in quite that way here, but if you monitor the Windsor-Essex County press, there is no question what the objective of the House leader for the official opposition is: "We're going to do this and we're going to do that. We're going to move heaven and earth to stop the government from doing the important things it was elected to do." We, of course, as a government, expect a strong and vigorous opposition but we expect an opposition that is going to be sensible and constructive.

Let me just quickly recount what has happened in the last number of days. The government caucus has decided to elect a chairman for its caucus. Our very good friend and esteemed member for Elgin indicated a willingness to stand for that position. I must report to the House that at an election held in the government caucus this morning, the member for Elgin was successful and she is now the newly elected government caucus chair. All of us, I am sure, would want to congratulate her on that.

When the member for Elgin decided she wanted to run for that elective position, she indicated her intention to resign her position as the Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House and she so indicated by letter earlier this week to the Speaker. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, through you to the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), those are the facts of the case. The member for Elgin decided to run. She was successful. But before the election was held today, she indicated, by letter to the Speaker, her intention to resign from her position, thereby occasioning the vacancy that this main motion seeks to address.

The comments made opposite about a statement from me or from someone else that these House positions were somehow going to be rotated along with all of the other parliamentary assistant positions, I say to the member for

Wentworth East (Ms. Collins), is patently absurd and simply not the case. I say that to anyone who cares to concern himself or herself with the facts of the case, recognizing that there are other imperatives and some people may not be particularly anxious to deal with the facts of the case.

That is what happened. We have had an election, we have a new caucus chair and we have put before the assembly a motion to deal with the vacancy occasioned by that decision taken by the member for Elgin, not the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson).

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Obviously, you are not too concerned about the facts, Sean. You know those aren't the facts. Your own caucus knows that.

Mr. Reville: There you go.

Hon. Mr. Conway: There he goes again. I say to the member for Riverdale—

Mrs. Cunningham: Is this your normal behaviour? I haven't seen this level of behaviour.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I say to my very good friend the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham), I have tried a new mode in here. I have tried to be quiet and to be very laid back, but I am sometimes energized to my old self.

I just listened yesterday and then I listened again today to the opposition House leaders in particular and I thought, "Well, it is important for me to make the case for the government as to what has actually gone on." I have no intentions of circumscribing the political licence of my friends opposite. I have no intentions of doing that at all.

Coming back to the amendment, I just want to take the opportunity to state again that we have seen things in this chamber over the last number of months that are quite remarkable. Again, it is interesting to see the member for Windsor-Riverside who, I repeat, has made it very clear what his objectives are to fight the government, to just do anything—there is some wonderful stuff in the Windsor Star. I did not bring it, but boy, that is his job. Go get 'em. What he is not going to do to stop certain things around this place. He will move heaven and earth to stop this and to stop that and to stop something else, to delay and to frustrate. Listen, I have played the opposition game. I know what some of those pressures are.

I have to say to my good friend the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), who settled down after the question period, that we have seen some things here over the last number of days and weeks and months that indicate very clearly what the opposition game is all about. I sat here the

other day and I watched a relatively new member, the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan), elected in 1987, and I saw something that I have never seen before. I saw a member stand up and in an effort to introduce, as you would expect, uninterrupted or unobstructed, a first reading, I saw him thwarted in that by no less a group than his own colleagues.

1630

I have been here 13 years and I have engaged in a few tactics of my own, but my copy-book is not blotted with that kind of obstructionism. I have never, ever seen a situation where a caucus gangs up on one of its own to deny that honourable member an opportunity to introduce a first reading in an unobstructed fashion. I have never seen that.

Why did they want to do that? It was clear what they wanted to do, I say to my friend the member for London North. They wanted to do what they did, ring the bells for a couple of hours. Opposition without effort, that is what they wanted to do. I must say, what could be more clear?

Then of course we have the bell-ringing without the noise of the same sort. We have the mindless, endless reading of petitions in which and for which our friends on both opposition benches bear the full measure of responsibility: more obstruction, more frustration, more delay, and to what end? It is not yet clear.

The member for Nipissing has said: "We want to get on with estimates. We want estimates. Give us estimates." I say, well, all right, I cannot deny or delay that kind of passion. If he wants estimates, we will give him estimates, I say to my friend the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham). On the first chance we get to give the Tories what they say they want, then they want something else. They want an emergency debate. Which is it? I ask my friend the member for Mississauga South, one of the saner members of the third party. What do they want? Do they want estimates?

The chief government whip is going to go through in some detail, in the short period of time, some of the efforts we have made in trying to accommodate the opposition in the call for estimates.

And oh, the member for Windsor-Riverside: What is so interesting about the member for Windsor-Riverside is not his strategy and it is not his tactics, because in here you would think you were dealing with Edmund Burke or Charles Fox, Mr. Parliamentary Principle. Yesterday, he was quite prepared to put a motion for adjourn-

ment that he had to believe, because he is no fool, that he had to know was out of order before the chamber.

Mr. Breagh: Well, it seemed to work.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Oshawa would never do that.

What is so interesting is watching the member for Windsor-Riverside stride about this place imagining that he is Charles Fox or Edmund Burke, Mr. Parliamentary Principle, and then listening to him outside or reading the Windsor Star. A more bare-knuckled partisan I have never, ever seen, and that is to his credit, but he cannot have it both ways, I say to the member for Mississauga South; it must be one or the other.

What is amusing, if at times disappointing, is the spectacle of the member for Windsor-Riverside trying to dress up this bare-knuckled, partisan, "We're going to stop this government at any cost on a number of issues, irrespective of the democratic will in this assembly and in the land beyond," that strategy, and then he tries to dress it up, tries to tart it up in the clothing of parliamentary respectability. I must say, as the former leader of the New Democratic Party in Ontario, Ambassador Stephen Lewis, would say if he were here, "That is chutzpah with a capital C."

I do not begrudge—that brought a smile to the face of the member for Windsor-Riverside; let Hansard show that.

An hon. member: Oh, he can smile.

Hon. Mr. Conway: He can smile. How would Stephen say it, I ask the member for Nickel Belt? What breathtaking, shameless, impossibly clever chutzpah would beat that, I say to my friends in this chamber today? It is watching the member for Windsor-Riverside, with his strategy well known to the press and the world beyond, come in here and just dress it all up as though it had something to do with parliament. It has everything to do with the tactics the opposition has decided upon. That is their decision. I am not here to challenge the efficacy and the intelligence that might have gone into the consideration of those tactics, but I am here to tell you, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It's nice to know you've got over your anger.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Well, you know, he has provoked me. How many times has the member for Windsor-Riverside given the appearance, offered the veneer of the rules of parliament, the proper decorum?

The other day, one of my friends in the great southwest came to me and said, "Mr. House Leader, are there not rules by which we members are governed in some matters, for example, the printing and the distribution of the Queen's Park report?" I said: "Oh yes, it is quite clear what the rules are. The rules in the manual for members' allowances and services say, 'It is implicit that the contents [of these members' mailings] be nonpartisan in nature and restricted to outlining legislative developments in the House and committees.'" That is quite clear to all members, particularly those members who serve on the Board of Internal Economy, like the member for Windsor-Riverside. They know only too well what the rules are.

Mr. Reycraft: Don't they make the rules?

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Nipissing stood up the other day and complained to you, Mr. Speaker, about something that appeared in the riding brochure of the member for Fort York, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong). The member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft) is quite right that the Board of Internal Economy has a lot to do with the making and enforcement of those rules, as always under your able guidance and leadership, Mr. Speaker.

One of my friends came to me the other day and said, "If that is so, Mr. House Leader, how can one explain this"—the Queen's Park report of the member for Windsor-Riverside—"if rules mean anything?"

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, I am not going to go through chapter and verse of this householder, because the surprise will be too much, the pain will be too great and the recrimination might be almost uncontrollable, I say to my friend from Osceola, the member for Ottawa South (Mr. McGuinty). I recommend to him and anyone in the gallery—I see a member of the press here—that if they are interested in rules and the degree to which and the way in which the member for Windsor-Riverside—

Mr. McLean: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am curious how much longer we are going to have to stand this punishment.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just want to tell my friend from Oro that he will not have to wait too long. He will not have to wait as long as the government members have had to wait patiently for the antics of the opposition to be concluded.

We have been asked by the member for Windsor-Riverside to reflect upon the rules. If members are interested in the rules, they will be

interested in this householder, because a more shameless, barefaced breaking of the rules I cannot imagine. I ask my friend from Manotick, mindful of the tentative accord as between the House leaders from the third and second parties, will he promise to do me this favour? Please do not show this to my friend the member for Nipissing, because this will send him into paroxysms of upset and rage.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: If the government House leader wants to read my householder, that is fine, but I do not think the government House leader is permitted to come in the House and say I have broken rules and accuse me of breaking the rules set by the Board of Internal Economy and make that accusation here in the House. I do not think you can permit that. He will have to withdraw it. If he would like to file a complaint about my householder, I would be more than happy to come before you, Mr. Speaker, or the Board of Internal Economy to go over my report, but I would ask that he withdraw an accusation in the House.

1640

Hon. Mr. Conway: Let me help you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will withdraw any impression I might have given that I have unilaterally decided this. I think quite properly, Mr. Speaker, at the behest of the member for Nipissing, you have the matter before you and I just would take this opportunity to add this to the body of that which you are surveying and about which you will pass some judgement.

I will not get into the fact that the Windsor press, among others, has raised some questions. From my point of view, I want to simply make the point—

Mrs. Marland: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have not reviewed which order it is but I know there is an order that does not permit a member of this House to speak without your first identifying him or her. With respect, the government House leader has just risen to speak without being recognized by you.

Mr. Speaker: The member had the floor.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I can tell that the late afternoon is upon us and I want to accommodate. I do not want to be too difficult, but I introduce this as evidence because we are being invited, as members of this assembly, to consider the points made by the member for Windsor-Riverside. I think, with all due respect, he is about the last person who ought to be giving us any advice on the rules, by dint of his present and past conduct,

stellar fellow in the official opposition that he seems to be. I just want to say that one can lead by example and the examples being provided by the member for Windsor-Riverside are not the kinds of examples on which I would construct any argument for leadership.

Let me just say in conclusion that there was consultation; it is quite true, and the honourable members opposite adverted to this, as they would say at the Cochrane bar. There was discussion last Monday—

Mr. Breagh: That is one bar I have never been to. Where is it?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Let me be clear: the Cochrane legal bar. All my lawyer friends use that wonderful word “adverted,” and it makes me think of lawyers. That is the point I am trying to convey.

Last Monday at the board, I indicated that it was the intention of the member for Elgin to seek the chairmanship of the government caucus. I indicated it very clearly. On Thursday, at the regular House leaders’ and whips’ meeting, I made it even more clear that that was going to happen, that it was the intention of the government to nominate the member for Windsor-Walkerville for that particular vacancy. It was very clearly spelled out at that time what our intentions were, so the argument that there was no consultation is simply, from my point of view, not correct.

It is correct to say, I am sure, that there was a consultation that was not satisfactory to the wishes of the official opposition. I am prepared to accept that, but I ask my friends to reflect upon the wishes of the opposition. The wishes of the opposition are that the public business in this chamber and in its committees not proceed, that it be frustrated, that it be delayed, that it be obstructed, and that every and any tactic in and outside of the rules will be applied to that end. That is their objective, that is their strategy and that is on their head.

I conclude by saying that the government does not favour this amendment, because we think we have proceeded fairly and reasonably. Of course, I am prepared, in the normal course of events, to engage my friends from Timmins and Orono and elsewhere on how we ought to do the business of this place.

Mr. Laughren: You have done the business—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Assuming, I say to my friend the member for Nickel Belt, that that is the business of the business in this place, but these mixed signals have got to stop. If it is estimates, it will be estimates. If it is rules to facilitate the

improved progress of the legislative agenda, I am prepared to deal. But if the agenda is the agenda that is made plain, outside of this House and in here, by the antics, and those antics are a frustration and an obstruction, then that is not the government's concern.

We were elected to lead, to decide and to get on with the important business that the audience and the voters out there expect and will receive from the Liberal government led by the member for London Centre. For those reasons, we reject this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oshawa.

Mr. Breagh: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are indeed fortunate the House leader stopped when he did. Five more minutes and you would have had to send out for hip waders for all members.

I have been here a while and I have seen the government House leader on both sides of the aisle. I have enjoyed, on many occasions, what he had to say, the way he said it and the ferocity with which he put his point. But I tell you the truth, Mr. Speaker, I do not recall a time when I have seen a government House leader spend quite so much time berating any member of the opposition in very hot, personal terms, not disagreeing with what the member said, not disagreeing with what the member put across, but making a very personalized assault.

I think the government House leader is going to regret that. I have waited for some time for the government to address the issue and it has not happened yet. I think people who are observing the process may have some difficulty understanding why members would be upset about this. Members on the opposition side have no say and want no say in what a government does, nor do we want anything to do with who gets various government jobs or who is a minister of the crown. That is not our business at all. We would prefer, in most instances, to let the government do what it wants and then we will make our positions known at a later time.

But there are some positions that members of the assembly feel belong to the assembly, and this is one of them. A committee of the assembly has tried, on a number of occasions now, to make that abundantly clear. I have served on that committee, as have members from all parties. On many occasions, since I have been a member here, we have worked collectively as individual, ordinary members of the assembly of Ontario to establish a way of conducting our business that makes a little more sense to us.

When I first became a member here, things were not very good for ordinary members and I think the member for Renfrew North was one of the first to take up the cause that ordinary members on all sides, not government or opposition but ordinary members of the assembly on all sides, were at a decided disadvantage. The disadvantage was very simply this, that the Legislature was run from the Premier's office, that there were times when no other member, none, other than the government House leader, knew what the next order of business would be, and that there were times when no member knew when the House would adjourn for the evening; the House sat regularly until one o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock, four o'clock in the morning.

Members on all sides said, "That's fine if your only agenda is to pass the government's laws and if you believe that the role of the ordinary member is to stand up at the right time." But a number of us, in all parties, said, "There must be a better way to organize the business of the province and to organize the way in which the Legislative Assembly does its business."

We started by saying that there are some officers of the assembly who are important to all members on all sides who, we all agreed, should be nonpartisan, that they cannot fulfil their duties unless all sides believe they are not going to take an advantage of one side over the other. The position we are discussing today is one of those.

The Legislative Assembly committee said a little more than that in its reports, which are, in my view, a magnificent compromise, because they offer to the government side some advantages in getting its business done a little faster than was usually the way, and to the opposition side a little bit of how it can get its points across during the legislative agenda. But most of all, it is for those of us who are not party leaders. Most of all, those reforms were about the things a member of the cabinet cares nothing about, because their prime responsibility is to deliver programs and probably they do not participate as much as do many of us who are ordinary members in the chamber.

So those reforms were all headed towards enhancing the role of this chamber and enhancing the role of each and every ordinary member. The reforms seemed to be rather well under way for a while, but I would say, as one who has worked for them, as the member for Renfrew North has for some time, they now appear to be stalled. The government has lost its enthusiasm for this. I think that is a sad day. It is sad because it reverts

members on this side into some things we would really rather not do.

1650

Let me give some reasons the government of Ontario ought to pause and think about its position, which is essentially what the amendment does. It says: "Just wait a minute. Send this back to the Legislative Assembly committee and let's all sit down and think about how we want to proceed over the life of this parliament." I really beg government members to do this. I know they have enough votes to win. That is not the point. To accept that as their premise is to misunderstand completely the parliamentary system.

The parliamentary system is quite different from a congressional system or any other system one would care to look at. If this were the Congress of the United States of America and the President had enough votes to get something through the Congress, it would happen on schedule, on time as he called the shots. That does not happen very often there, but that is the theory. A parliament is not like that. A parliament is different. A parliament has as its basic premise that all honourable members on all sides do not have to agree—they rarely do—but they all have to believe that what is being done here is reasonable. That is a key difference.

It is fine for the government House leader to say, as he just did at some length, that somebody did not understand what he said. It is fine for him to say, "Well, they understood what I said but they didn't like it." That, unfortunately, is not what is being discussed here. If it chooses to continue on the route it is, and it may—it certainly would not be the first government in this chamber to do that—I think it is fair for us on the opposition side to say it: "You leave us no option. We watched you in opposition. We will simply repeat all the things you did." As I listened to the government House leader say how horrible it was for an opposition party to cause the bells to ring, I was reminded of those occasions when he was in opposition when that is precisely what the Liberal Party of Ontario did in opposition.

I listened to him lecture us about people on the opposition side giving long speeches, and I recall the speeches given in this chamber in opposition by the member for Renfrew North. I will be happy to read them to the members if they want because they are all written down. That is one of the curses of Hansard; it writes down every single word you say and attributes it to you. We are not allowed to say that is hypocrisy, but whatever it is, it is true and it happened here.

My personal assessment of what is transpiring here is that we have slipped into an unfortunate set of circumstances. I notice that the government House leader, when he was here, was most upset that he was being given a lecture on arrogance by a Conservative. I could be a little facetious and say they are experts in the field, but it would take away not one whit from the accuracy of what was said here this afternoon.

They can try, as others have before them, to say that is the reality of September 10: "We have a huge majority. We will do what we want." The Liberal government in New Brunswick can do that because there is not one opposition member there, but the Liberals in Ontario, however popular they are, however many seats they have, however wonderful they are, cannot. That is the only thing the opposition side has to work with.

We cannot ride around in the limousines. We cannot appoint people to the cabinet. We cannot appoint royal commissions or select committees or do a great many things a government can do, but in this chamber we have a tool. The tool is to do what opposition parties have done since there were parliaments; that is, when a government decides it does not want to bother consulting with the opposition, it will pay a price for that. It can make as many hysterical speeches as it wants; it will not get away from paying that price. The minister can stand up and personally say nasty things about every single member on the opposition side and it will not do him any good.

The Liberals are not the first ones to think of that. I have been here when the pros were at work, when those benches were occupied by people who had been in government for 30 and 40 years and by members who knew nothing but being on the government side. There are no new stunts. We have seen them all. I have seen Tom Wells, when he was government House leader, get up and do very much like what the member for Renfrew North did today. He did it with a lot more class and a lot more clout, and when the day was over, you knew that you could go outside and talk to him.

I put this fear on the record this afternoon, which I think the Liberals should pay some attention to. Maybe they have not yet learned how to govern. Maybe they honestly think that all they have to do is yell at us that they have more members than we do. It does not work on the playground and it does not work in here. Maybe they think they can bully us around. Let them try it, for as long as they like.

Maybe they think that just because they are the most popular group of folks in Ontario, all of the

opposition members on this side will lay down at their feet. We will not. We never have and we never will. If they do not like the confrontation, the option is obvious: Consult with us; put together something that is reasonable.

Let me say a couple of other things that I think have to be said. I am one, with many members on all sides, who worked very hard to change the way this place functions, to try to make it a better place for the people of Ontario, to make it a better working place for the ordinary members of this assembly.

I do not think I am telling tales out of school when I say that all of us in all parties are frustrated. We thought we had made the compromises that are necessary. It is not that any of the reports of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly were ever written with me or any member of that committee in mind or that we thought we had devised the perfect compromise. We are all practising politicians; we knew that was not true. But what we had in terms of a way to discuss estimates, a way to discuss the appointments of positions like this, was something that was acceptable to all of us, in all political parties, on both sides of the House.

When this government began, it said, "We agree with those reforms." Some small measure of them got through, but the bulk of them did not. They said to individual members such as me, "Help us understand what the committee wanted to do; meet with us and explain it to us," as the government House leader did, and we did that. The answer now is sadly clear. Now they do not want to. Now they are unhappy that there is an opposition here.

Let me put this caution to a government that probably is in no mood to listen to cautions. I think there is a better way to do this. I think it has been laid out for them. I think they are quite silly in rejecting that option, just as I would say that this afternoon there was a chance for the government to pause and rethink.

I know that many members are rolling in the glee of having a huge majority. They earned that right. I say to them, do not throw it away; do not abuse it. If they want to hear the chapter and verse of what it is like, of what the abuses are, for a government that has a big majority over a long period of time and how wrong that can be—they do not even have to do it publicly; they can do it privately—they can talk to some of the members of the caucus that is just to my left about what it was like to be in a government that had a big majority, off and on, over a lengthy period of time, what that was like for the ordinary member

there, what that was like for the government, and how wrong a system that is. My observations are that the Liberals are just embarking on that.

For what it is worth, the rumour mill tells me that the government has finally made up its mind that it will now exercise its authority as a government and will exercise its majority in a way that it wants to and that it has made certain personnel changes to see that this happens. They can certainly try. They are trying now. They will try again. They will regret it, they surely will. The others I watched do this were a much more polished and professional crowd. They had run governments in this province for four decades. They ran into their problems. Ultimately, it ran them into the ground. They paid the price for what they did, and this government will too.

1700

I am not a great fan of this Liberal government, and that is no surprise, but I believe there are those who want to do something a little better than what we have had here in this chamber before. I believe there are members on the government side who sincerely want a process that makes sense to them, who do not want their time at the trough. It is only natural that some among them will say, "Give me a parliamentary assistant's job every couple of years and let me ride around in a limousine and give me an expense account and that will keep me happy; that is why I am in politics," but I hope there are not many of them.

I hope that the vast majority of the government members want to be here, want this chamber to be an effective place for decision-making in Ontario, want their committees to be able to actually do something, want an estimates process that makes sense and allows for a reasonable amount of scrutiny of the expenditure of public funds, want their table officers to be clearly nonpartisan and respected by members on all sides. They should stop and think about what they are doing this afternoon. Do they want to put someone in that chair so that some afternoon members of the opposition will say, "We know how you got there"? We are trying as hard as we can to separate the individual member from the process. The government seems intent on forging that process through.

Many of us have been here for a while. The government is not going to show us anything that has not been done before. To be honest, we are not going to show it anything that it has not done before either. The number of tricks and stunts and things that an opposition party can do is relatively limited. Once every century or so

someone comes up with a new way to make a point, but it is that rare, and all people do is read the books. What did people do in different times when they wanted to protest? The truth is, of course, that an opposition member and an opposition party have a very limited array of tools. You have to use what you have.

I believe that the amendment in front of the House is sensible, if members take the hysteria of the House leader out of the picture this afternoon. I understand that. The member for Renfrew North is a friend of mine who has been here for many years. He used to entertain us many afternoons with speeches just like that. Of late, one of the things I miss is the opportunity to listen to the member for Renfrew North entertain us for a while. He is not allowed to speak very often, but in part that is what it means to become the government: to take on a different role, to take on different responsibilities.

I think there is an opportunity here this afternoon for the government to pause and rethink its position. It may be able to win a vote, but it will pay an ungodly price for it. The government may not pay it now, it may not happen for a little while, but it will get the government in the end. In all parliaments, whenever the government party decides that it has no time to listen to what the opposition has to say, the one thing we can be sure of is that it will make time to listen to what the opposition has to say. Whenever a government says, "We have no concerns, we simply disagree and we have more votes than you have," sooner or later it will find that process does not work very well, particularly if it uses it on more than one occasion.

This parliament, this process that we live and work in is a different one from what we will see in operation in many other parts of the world. It is old, it is sometimes kind of silly. I am sure if people came in, they would say, "Why are there people in black dresses sitting around, particularly since some of them are men?" Some of those traditions are to remind us of what a parliament used to be, what its roots and traditions are. It is different from many other forms of governing that we see in all parts of the world.

I caution this government to rethink what it is doing, and whatever silliness it might have seen from the government House leader today about individual members of the House, that is not what a government House leader is here to do. A government House leader, quite frankly, is here to facilitate the business of the government. If he seriously thinks he does so by ridiculing other

members of the assembly, he is sadly mistaken. It is kind of like where you work, if you work in a situation other than this. If you think you advance your cause by ridiculing other people in that workplace, it will not take very long to learn the lesson that you do not. You may get somewhere by calling somebody names one day or making fun of them on one occasion, but sooner or later, the time will come when you need their help and they are not likely to help people who have ridiculed them.

This is a funny process. This is a process built on the premise, however wrong some might think it, that members on all sides are honourable, that they are reasonable. This process works well as long as that remains true, as long as members on both sides of the aisle think the other people can be completely wrong about something but are in fact reasonable people; so long as we feel that the people who chair these sessions are there because members on all sides agree they are good choices and members on all sides agree they were consulted fully before they got there. If that is not true, this process breaks down. You might attribute that to being arrogance in government; quite frankly, I would attribute it more to being stupid in government. If they really think a government and a government House leader can ramrod this stuff through, they are incredibly naïve; they cannot. Members on both sides of the aisle need to believe the other side is a reasonable group. If they do not, if one breaks that trust, then a parliamentary system does not work.

Today, the government House leader may ridicule someone on the opposition side; tomorrow, he may ridicule someone on his own side. If members sit here today and let that happen, if they sit here today and chuckle, as some are, about this process, let me be the first to tell them they will not be chuckling very long. Today somebody else is getting gored; tomorrow it will be them. It sounds funny if one takes a particularly partisan stance on it, but write this down and remember it: If members thought this was a funny speech this afternoon, when it happens to them, I will read it back to them. If members thought there was no relevance in saying it has to be seen to be a reasonable thing on all sides, write it down and when this process stops, when it grinds to a halt, I will read it back to them again. Take my advice: What we have before us is hardly a radical thought; it is, in fact, not a totally unsensible thing to do. Pause a little bit.

Let me leave government members with this thought: They may not want to do it this afternoon; they may decide they want more warfare, want more arguments and want this process to break down completely. Sooner or later, they are going to come to the very simple realization that if members on all sides do not think that what they are doing is reasonable, this parliamentary process does not work. They can have all the programs in the world and stand up every day and berate the opposition for what they think is a totally ludicrous way to proceed, but they will not get what they want either. That is kind of the compromise of the parliamentary system. They will do it today or they will do it tomorrow or they will do it the next time there is some kind of impasse reached, but sooner or later they will realize they cannot get around this.

If members on all sides do not agree that what they are doing is a reasonable way to proceed, they simply cannot proceed. They do not have to agree with what they are doing. They certainly do not have to agree with your policies. They do not have to agree that David Peterson is a great leader. All they have to agree on is that the process is a reasonable one.

If we can argue it out here and go underneath the gallery or outside in the lobby and decide what we will do tomorrow, the process will continue. That, of course, is the trick of any of the House leaders; they cannot afford to let a personal argument stop them from proceeding with their duties, and their duties are to organize the business, not to organize an agreement that we will all vote the same way on an issue. We are from three different political parties. That will be unusual.

But if we do not agree that it is a reasonable way to proceed—that is basically what we are being shown this afternoon, that two of the political parties in this House do not think that the government has proceeded in a way that is reasonable. It is one of those occasions when they can win a battle and lose a war. That is their choice. They will not avoid this choice. They can avoid it for today, but it will come back to them again the next time there is a disagreement of this type. It will get worse. That is the choice that is before the government.

1710

I regret the government House leader has left us for the moment, but I know he will be back. I enjoyed, in a sense, what he had to say this afternoon. I regret, in a sense, that he made it such a personal attack. I do not believe that was necessary. I think that will make it pretty difficult

for that member and the member who is the House leader for our party to sit down tomorrow and discuss what we will do tomorrow afternoon.

It is one of those things for which he will pay a price. The House leaders in particular are charged with perhaps the most difficult task of how to organize the business of this process and how to see that all members get their chance to speak and decide when votes will be held. It is not a process, a forum, that lends itself well to having those three members of this assembly attacking one another publicly and putting on the public record the kind of things that were done this afternoon. But that is done and it cannot be resolved.

What can be resolved is that members can look at the amendment that is being proposed this afternoon which, as I read it, simply says, "Let's send this off to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly and let them have a little look at whether the process is enough."

In my reading of it, it does nothing, in any sense of the word, to even stop or delay for any real purposes the appointment the government wants to make to this chair, but it does say that there is a problem here and a problem that should be addressed, and that we might just as well get this out of the way now. If we do not, it is going to be a long, cold winter here. It is going to be a very difficult parliament. It does not need to be that.

I think there are lots of things that can be done, that should be done and that lots of members on the government side know should be done and that they want to do. This amendment deserves their support. I wish they would stop and rethink what they are doing. I think they are on the wrong track here altogether. I do not know how they got here. I am not privy to their private decisions on that. I caution them that if some measure of caution is not put into the process now, they will surely regret that later. So will I because I am not here to engage in the kind of stuff we have had this afternoon.

There are people I represent who have very real problems. I want the Legislature to address those problems. I do not want to waste my time in committees where the work is not very productive, particularly when I sense that there are people on all sides who could do very productive work in committees here. I do not understand why governments deny them that chance. I do not understand why governments delude themselves into thinking that if the Office of the Premier wants us to go in that direction, we will all stampede like lemmings over the cliff. That is

one the things that is dreadfully wrong with the parliamentary system.

I urge members to support the amendment that is before us. I urge them, more than that, to rethink very carefully what appears to be a direction that has now been established by a government that is just beginning to feel its oats. It is a direction that will cause them great pain. It will cause the opposition members here a lot of difficulty. But worse than that, it will cause the people of Ontario to have a Legislative Assembly that is not nearly as productive as it should be.

That, of course, is the great crime. The great crime here is not hurt feelings among the members. We will all get over that. The great crime here is to have a legislative process that is nowhere nearly as good as it should be.

Mr. Cureatz: It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is indeed a privilege for me to speak to my colleague's amendment. Indeed, I am somewhat humbled by following the government House leader and my NDP colleague, both of whom were elected some 15 or 18 months prior to my election. As fate would have it now, as years have gone by, after one or two other successful elections, we have become so-called senior members in terms of our experience here.

I say to the honourable member, who is now so pointedly placed way yonder over from, if the new seating plan can be read, the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), although he is not in his seat, that I have had the experience, for those of you who have listened from time to time over the last year, to participate in one or two debates, some of which will come forward to us again.

I can think of Sunday shopping. I can think of the free trade debate approximately a year ago. At those times, they were different marching orders in terms of the particular process at hand. In this afternoon's participation, it grieves me to say that my approach will be taken, to a degree, in a somewhat less humorous vein. It will be more the experience I have encountered over the last number of years here, to the degree of not prolonging for all of you one or two thoughts I have, and lo and behold, to be a little more concise than is my normal bent.

The strangest thing is that, of course, I am just the humble barrister and solicitor from the Kendal hills out in my great riding of Durham East, whereas the learned Liberal House leader from the great Ottawa Valley has had years of experience in terms of his educational process in the history of our province and our country.

Needless to say, the time has been such that I, too, have been endowed with the responsibility of some aspects of these chambers, in which I was very proud to serve in the past. The strangest thing is that when I served in the capacity of Deputy Speaker from 1981 to 1985, or 1980 to 1984—I forget the exact numeration of it—above all, above anything else, in terms of my approach, which from time to time was in terms of some levity and humour, I took this book with sincerity and severity.

Actually, in those days, it was not even a book and I got quite annoyed. With the sincerity of the approach to the job that I took, I had written a paper on the rules of procedure of the Ontario Legislature, and lo and behold, as Deputy Speaker, I was severely reprimanded by, yes, my own caucus, some members of the then large majority government under Bill Davis. What was this upstart doing coming forward with some ideas about how the chamber should be run, if you can believe it?

But as I sat in the various positions, it became obvious to me that if all of us were to function in terms of our elected process to have a useful meaning in these places here, then there should be some movement, in terms of what I have to say to my NDP colleagues who were correct, to a reform of the process.

Interestingly enough, in that paper which was reported in the Canadian Parliamentary Review a long time ago—in a galaxy far away, just like in Star Wars—a number of aspects were centred in on. And do you know what? Funnily enough, the first aspect was something very simple, very procedural.

I had written to all the parliaments of Canada and to Australia and to various Commonwealth countries and came back with a wealth of ideas. One was that we should do away with the old standing orders in terms of the little pamphlet we had, which was stapled together, because from time to time rules would change. I said, "Let's do something practical like a hard cover, loose-leaf binder, indexed and readily available." Why? So that each parliamentarian here would feel comfortable opening it up, because it was important that we all learn the process; anything to get the members involved so that they would have a working understanding, because goodness, when I sat there, I say to the Clerk Assistant, as he well knows, from time to time it was most frustrating trying to educate the members time and time again about the various aspects, and if they could be helped along, so be it.

1720

Of course, one of the other interesting items was the time of sitting in these chambers. They were a little ridiculous. I do not know what the reason for that was, I say to the House leader for the Liberal Party as he comes forward. Goodness, I sat in that chair and listened to him berate the large Conservative majority government for hours on end about, among other things, our rules.

I say to the then Liberal opposition, as I was Deputy Speaker I said in my mind—I did not say it too openly. I say to the New Democratic Party, which was then the third party—heaven forbid, I say to the member from Sudbury, I cannot believe it is the official opposition now—maybe there was some truth to what the member for Oshawa said in terms of, “Behold, your day will come again.” I want to get into that speech about how 30 of them at least will be gone. They are finished. But I will restrain myself; I will save that for another time.

This is the interesting thing. I said, “You know, we should be looking at the hours this House sits.” Then it was from two to six and then from 8 to 10:30. Actually, it was a little ridiculous. For some reason, the old guard in the old days on the front bench of the Conservative government would not move on that whatsoever, whether it was Bill Davis, Robarts in those days, I guess, and Frost and maybe Drew. I do not know the reason.

But I will say this about the 1985 election. For the eight long weeks, I say to the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay)—for whom we are preparing one or two questions later on, finally at long last, so he should get ready, but I will not advise him what they are at this time—what happened? We lost the government and part of the negotiations, I say to the Liberal House leader, I remember sitting in cabinet and Bob Elgie came in and said: “We’ve lost it. Conway and McClellan have struck the deal.” It was a sad, sorry day. I finally had the limousine. I did not bother with a driver, because I could sense what was happening. I drove myself. I knew the way the then third party was feeling. I thought, “We’re finished.”

Surprisingly enough, I was overly shocked to hear the Liberal House leader in his castigation of the House leader for the NDP, because the NDP went to bat for the Liberals. They did not have as many seats as the Conservative Party did, fewer if memory serves me correctly, and they went to bat—I want to allude to that in a moment—in terms of their bringing in saner hours around here. For

whom? For the NDP, the Conservatives and the Liberals.

It made sense, so that we could have a proper working day, to have our evenings so out-of-town members, if they were close, could maybe get back to their constituencies or attend the various functions we are all asked to attend while the House is in session.

I give credit to the NDP and to the Liberals in those minority government days for making some reform movements, on what? On the procedure, something very practical, because actually, as regrettable as it was to lose the government, I have to tell members that back in 1985 I felt that at least there would be some movement where the private member would have the opportunity to have some valuable input into the process, because for too long I saw, yes, a large majority government in 1981 in terms of the tactics that we are seeing now from this large majority government, the intolerance of having the opposition have its little say.

This boils down to one word, I say to the Liberal House leader. If he takes back one word as he drives from Toronto along Highway 401 and Highway 115 and 35, up into that wonderful riding of none other than Renfrew North, he should think about this one word. I feel sad that he was upset yesterday. It hurt me to think, with the number of years he has been here, that he would get to that state, but he is taking it all a little too in the perspective of this large majority. The one word is “sensitivity.” He has forgotten the sensitivity of parliament, of the rules and what they are all about.

Mind you, I was a little sensitive when I was Deputy Speaker. I did not put into that paper the possibility of television. I knew that would be the death knell. I would have been finished if I had mentioned TV. I asked the former Clerk in a haphazard way what he thought about TV. “Are you kidding? Television? It has never been and never will be part of the process of parliament here at Queen’s Park.”

Well, what do we have here? We have a camera over there and a camera over there and two behind me. That is where TV went to, and all for the better, so the fine people of Ontario could have the opportunity to be, among other things, listening to the interesting debate which, I say to the people at home, goes to the manner in which this place is run. I can tell them that at the moment this large Liberal majority government has crossed the line.

My understanding, from my own House leader, is that the NDP House leader has always

been reasonable in negotiating the process on how this place operates. None of the Liberal backbenchers can tell me from day to day that they are going to come up and exactly explain what is taking place in these chambers. There is no way. What an eye-opener they all had when they were elected. The three House leaders organize what is the process here at Queen's Park, and there has to be a give and take.

I want to centre just briefly on some sensitivity aspects the honourable House leader for the large Liberal majority government would have appreciation for, and I do not want to unduly waste the time of the chamber here. I can remember, interestingly enough, when there was legislation being brought forward on wage and price controls. I will tell members, when the Conservatives were the government, there was nothing that brought greater anxiety to the then opposition parties than that piece of legislation. I forgot how it got out of second reading but somehow very quickly it wound up in the committee of the whole House. I sat in that committee for a year and a half. If we looked up in Hansard, maybe it was a year and two months, but it was a long time.

I will tell you how long it was. We did not get out of clause 1(a) for a year and three months. It went on and on and on. Even I was getting a little frustrated, as tolerant as I am in terms of the process in these chambers. I then finally almost jumped the brink. Do members know what I almost did? Talk about timing. When I was in that chair—

Interjections.

Mr. Cureatz: On timing, I will say to those Liberal backbenchers that I will be interested to see how many of them are back here. We will see how good their timing is. We will go down to Las Vegas, and he is running to be the mayor of Mississauga. We know his whole story, we say to the member for Mississauga West.

I pushed the vote on clause 1(a). I got that close. I said, "Members of the committee, I am about to call the vote." Do members know what happened? The then leader of the Liberal Party, now the esteemed Treasurer, the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), stood up in a big panic. Members should have heard his impassioned speech. He said, "Mr. Deputy Speaker, I implore you to reconsider—" He was very stern. Members know how jovial he is, but he was tough on me that night.

He said: "I implore you to reconsider what you have just said. Why, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Because the process in these chambers requires a

degree of sensitivity, and you are pushing the process in a manner for which there is no precedent. We have yet to see a Speaker or Deputy Speaker call the vote in the manner in which you are proposing."

I got a little nervous that evening because suddenly I thought he was right, that maybe I was stepping out of bounds, that I was weighing up the parliamentary process and that maybe it just was not my place to push it that much further. Lo and behold, like an angel flying out of the clouds, do members know who came to my rescue? Bette Stephenson, good girl. She stood up and she said, "I put the motion." She brought in closure while I was wondering what I was going to do with my ruling about pushing the vote.

Happily enough, I was saved. Little did I know that the government House leader and the then Premier had worked it all out. They were bringing in closure that hour anyway. It just happened to have unfolded a little faster than we all anticipated. But it goes to the point of the sensitivity of the manner in which this parliament operates. I can remember an amendment to the human rights bill. It was extremely controversial.

1730

I say to the Speaker that I understand it is 5:34 or 5:35, and not the hour on the clock, so we will try to hurry up our comments.

I can remember at about 10:15 the galleries were packed with people from the city of Toronto concerned about a particular amendment. Suddenly there was a great holler and shouting and I believe newspapers came down from the galleries. They chained themselves to the railings. It was quite an evening.

I adjourned the House and rushed back to the chambers, wondering at the back office what I was going to do. I asked the pages to call in the three House leaders of the parties—Tom Wells, Elie Martel and Bob Nixon—and I said, "Well, fellows, what do we do now?" We sat down and decided we would have to call upon the guards with the wire clippers and cut those individuals who had chained themselves to the gallery and wait until the gallery had been dispersed and then we would carry on with the legislation.

That co-operation I would call a degree of sensitivity. There was an understanding among all three party House leaders in terms of the manner in which this place would operate. What have we seen now today?

Interjection.

Mr. Cureatz: I say to the whip of the Liberal Party, who undoubtedly is in trouble in his riding

in London, when I know our candidate, whoever he or she will be, will be reminding the fine voters there about the Sunday shopping aspect: What have we seen about the sensitivity in these chambers? I say to him, Sunday shopping.

I will save that speech for another day because, as the member for Oshawa indicated, there will be other days. If members think this is tedious now, just wait until we get going on Sunday shopping. Do members know what we saw in terms of the sensitivity of having public hearings on Sunday shopping? We saw the Premier and the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) coming out with statements saying that the core of the legislation will not be altered.

I will save that speech for another day and I can hardly wait. It is too bad I cannot be at the standing committee on administration of justice right now. If I could be at both places at once, I would be reminding all the Liberal backbenchers on that committee, again and again and again, about the fallacy of the approach the government took. I say to the Liberal backbenchers, it was so easy. I have never had it so easy, beating them over the head, day after day and the groups coming in and the Premier and the Solicitor General.

Right off the bat, I say, "Pull the rugs from underneath them," and say basically: "The committee process is useless. We're not even going to alter the major core of the local option." That is the kind of sensitivity we saw in the committee dealing with Sunday shopping.

Talking about sensitivity, I was driving into Queen's Park this morning, tuning in CBC Radio 740, where you really find out where all the action is. If the backbench Liberals want to find out what their government is doing, they should not go to caucus; they should listen to CFRB and CBC at eight o'clock in the morning. That will tell them the whole thing for the rest of the week. They will not even have to come, they have such a large majority. They should look after their ridings. They had better, because most of them are gone.

I tuned into the radio and who did I listen to? There is the Treasurer on his car phone somewhere between St. George and Earl's Shell Service, and we had the House leader for the Conservative Party and the House leader for the New Democratic Party talking about Bill 162. Have I got the number right? Bill 162 is the reform to the Workers' Compensation Board legislation.

Talk about sensitivity. The opposition House leaders were saying, "We would like to have

some public hearings on this process." Do members know what the Treasurer said? I almost ran into the guardrail. He said, "Oh, well, it's up to the committee to decide." So he said.

We all know that the Premier and the House leader and the Attorney General and the Treasurer are running this government; they are running all of the Liberals and they are trying to run this parliament—the sacredness of these chambers. We know only too well that not until those four give the blessing to that committee would there be public hearings, and the Treasurer is trying to convey to people across the province, "Oh, it is up to the committee to decide." Here we are now this afternoon with this process, this degree of lack of sensitivity to what is taking place. The Liberal backbenchers are so new yet that they do not have the appreciation.

Actually, when we got wiped out the last election, among other saving graces was the fact that the process was improving, that individual members would be having the opportunity, that there would be no bias in the chair. This has nothing to do with the recommendation of the member for Windsor-Walkerville, who in terms of his capacity would no doubt do a very fine job. It has to do with negotiations and the manner in which the business of parliament is operated at Queen's Park so that we in the opposition feel comfortable that we have—albeit there is a very large Liberal majority government, notwithstanding that—a little bit of say and something at stake in the business of these chambers. I remind all of the members that we too were elected, as humble in numbers as we are for this go-around; but there will be another time.

While we are here, I do not understand for the life of me how the House leader for the Liberal Party could have blown this very simple method of the degree of sensitivity in terms of negotiating a call to the House leaders of my party and the official opposition to come up with an understanding, instead of what we see as the ram-rod-ding and the interference with all of us in the process of the business of these chambers.

Mr. Reycraft: I cannot help but think, as I rise to participate in this debate, that the people who are watching the proceedings of this House on television and have done so for the first six days of this sitting that started a week ago yesterday must be wondering what in heaven's name is going on at Queen's Park. We are again, for the second day in a row, spending a considerable amount of time talking about what is basically a procedural matter.

I listened to my friend the member for Oshawa, who I know has a great love for this place, for its traditions and for its rules, a member who I know has expended a great deal of personal effort in trying to negotiate a new set of rules for this House, a set of standing orders that would allow the Legislature to function in a better way than it has in the past. But it seemed to me, as I listened to his comments and I listened to him talk about the need for co-operation in order to have the business of this House move smoothly, that there was a principle behind what he was saying that placed the onus for that co-operation entirely on the government.

That is certainly not the case. That co-operation in this House is very much indeed a three-way street. It requires the good-faith bargaining of all three parties, through their designated House leaders.

I cannot agree with what the member for Oshawa has said about the need for the government to acquiesce in this matter in order to avoid confrontation or some kind of effect that is going to make future business arrangements more difficult to achieve.

1740

Mr. Wildman: I thought you were one of the few over there who wanted the rules changed.

Mr. Reyecraft: The member for Algoma mentions that he thought I was one of the persons who wanted to see the rules changed in this House. I do. I have been involved with the member for Oshawa and the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) in trying to put together a package that all three House leaders and all three caucuses would find acceptable. Unlike the member for Oshawa, I have not yet given up on the possibility of achieving consensus on significant rule changes in this House.

I want to comment on this debate as one who has been a participant in meetings of the House leaders and whips for the three parties over the last two weeks and perhaps even a period of time before. Perhaps I can offer something from my perspective that will help enlighten those of my colleagues and people who are watching about some of the things that have happened in here in the recent past.

Many of us have had the experience as a parent of taking a child who has had his own way perhaps too often into a toy store. Some of us may have had that experience as grandparents as well. But those of us who have done so will have experienced the frustration that sometimes results when we give in to that kind of a child who creates a fuss, who throws a tantrum to get

something that he particularly wants because sometimes, after going through all that fuss and all that tantrum, the child will decide he no longer wants what it was that was the object of his attention, or that he wants that and something else. Sometimes he takes what is given to him and just casts it aside. It seems to me that there is something about that experience that has a direct application to what has happened here from time to time.

We have found, from time to time, that the opposition party House leaders, particularly the House leader for the official opposition has, on the one hand, said that he wants some particular item. When that is offered, on the other hand, he will say that is no longer enough. Now something else has to be added to it.

I would like to use a couple of specific examples to illustrate my point. We heard as long ago as June from the opposition parties about their desire to move forward fairly soon with this matter of estimates. We agree with them about the importance of estimates.

We mentioned at that time that there was a possibility of dealing with those in an expeditious manner by allowing committees to consider estimates during July, August or September when the House was not sitting. We said: "We will agree to have estimates done very quickly. In fact, we would be quite happy to have them dealt with next month."

I ask my colleagues, what do they think the opposition parties said when we offered them the opportunity to do estimates during July, August and September? They said, "No, we want estimates, but we don't want them that badly." When we came back earlier this month, we again started to talk about estimates. We said again to the opposition House leaders: "Yes, we still agree that estimates are important. We would like to deal with as many as we can as quickly as we can. Instead of just dealing with estimates in the five committees that normally consider them, we are prepared to expand that. So that we can deal with more estimates sooner, we're prepared to put estimates in front of eight different committees."

Again I ask my colleagues: Guess what the opposition parties said when we offered them that option? They said: "No. We want to do estimates but we don't want to do them that badly." It is very difficult to know just how badly the opposition parties want to proceed with estimates when, on the one hand, they tell us they are very important but, when we make offers to

them, they say: "We want them, but we want them our way. We don't want them your way."

We have also had difficulty within these first two weeks on this matter surrounding public hearings on Bill 162, the amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. Last week we heard from the House leader for the official opposition, the member for Windsor-Riverside a number of allegations that the government was going to ram this legislation through, that the government did not want to put it out to committee for public hearings.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is what Greg Sorbara said in a meeting with our critic, so don't give us that.

Mr. Reyecraft: I heard the questions placed to the Minister of Labour during question period, and I heard the Minister of Labour say that he had no objection to public hearings. He also said he could not guarantee it because no minister can make that kind of guarantee. In fact, if a minister tried to make that kind of commitment for a committee, to run roughshod over the autonomy of a committee, the opposition members, particularly the member for Oshawa, would be the very first to be on their feet defending the right of committees to order their own business.

I listened last week to the House leader for the official opposition and his protestations about public hearings on Bill 162, and I kept asking myself: Who has said there will not be public hearings on Bill 162? I did not hear the third party say there will not be any public hearings on Bill 162 or that we do not want them. I did not hear the minister say in question period that there would not be public hearings on Bill 162. The minister did not say that. He said he had no objection to public hearings. I did not hear the government House leader say he had any objection to public hearings on Bill 162. The only person I heard saying there were not going to be public hearings on Bill 162 was the member for Windsor-Riverside.

I would also say to my colleagues in the official opposition that they should consider the record of this government with respect to public hearings on legislation. I do not believe they can name one single piece of controversial legislation which this government did not refer to a standing or select committee for public hearings, not one single piece of legislation. In fact, I do not think there has been a single piece of legislation that either of the opposition parties has asked to have before a committee for public hearings when it has not happened. If anything, I believe that

open, public hearings have become a trademark of this government.

I think back to what happened here last Wednesday when we had, first, a very large crowd demonstrating outside the chamber as well as outside the building. I asked myself last Wednesday why that crowd was here. Why did it come here? What I heard was that they were here because they had heard, they had been told that the government was going to push through Bill 162 without sending it to a committee for public hearings.

1750

I go back to what I asked earlier, who said there would not be public hearings on Bill 162? The only persons I heard saying that were the member for Windsor-Riverside and perhaps the member for Sudbury East, the critic for Labour for the official opposition. I did not hear anybody on the government side saying there would not be public hearings on Bill 162. The only people who were talking about that were the official opposition members, and they were running around like Henny Penny and Chicken Little saying, "There aren't going to be any hearings on Bill 162." The government never, ever intended to proceed without putting that bill before the committee for public hearings.

Let me tell the House, if I may, what happened last Thursday at the House leaders' meeting when we talked about the public hearings on Bill 162. When the House leader for the official opposition raised the matter, we said, "Yes, we agree that Bill 162 should go before a standing committee and we agree that there should be public hearings on that bill." We agreed that committee should travel around this province to hold hearings on these amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act.

We said, "We're so interested in moving this legislation forward, we would be prepared to give our consent to allowing that committee to travel around the province as soon as the bill is out of this House on second reading, even with the House sitting."

When we offered public hearings with travel around the province as soon as the bill was out of this House on second reading, again, I ask my colleagues, what do they think the representative for the official opposition said? He said: "No, we don't want to do that. We want public hearings, but we don't want them that way. We want them our way when we want them." That is what they said.

We offered something else. We suggested, "All right, if you do not want the committee to

travel while the House is sitting, perhaps the committee could start its hearings here in Toronto while the House is sitting and then continue to do the travelling when the House adjourns."

Again, I say to my colleagues, guess what the official opposition said to that. Did they say, "Yes, that sounds like a good idea." No, they did not. They said, "We want Bill 162 to go before the committee for public hearings, but not until the Legislature is adjourned," and who knows when that is going to be? It seems to me it is unlikely it is going to be before the end of January.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We couldn't do Bill 162 while we were doing estimates in committee because we had accepted that offer you had made earlier.

Mr. Reyecraft: The member for Windsor-Riverside, who is complaining now, has complained earlier this afternoon about the fact that we are uncompromising as a government, that we refuse to negotiate with them. It seems to me that his idea of what is responsible behaviour in this House and what are reasonable negotiations is considerably different from my idea of those things, because he believes that whenever there is a difference of opinion between the House leader for the party with 18 members and the House leader for the government with its 94 members, the solution always has to involve some compromise.

He believes that when he makes a request, whatever that request is, there is an obligation on the part of the government to make some concession to him. He believes it is unreasonable, irresponsible to say a simple "no" to that kind of request. Negotiation and compromise to him always mean that there has to be concession, and when it does not occur, he believes that his party is being wronged. His approach, it seems to me—and I have illustrated it with the matter of estimates and with the matter of public hearings on the amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act—is, "My way, or at least partly my way, or the doorway."

I go back to what I said at the beginning in response to the comments from the member for Oshawa. Co-operation in this Legislature is a three-way street, and while we, as representatives of a caucus with a large majority, have to be sensitive to opposition parties—

Interjection.

Mr. Reyecraft: A three-way street, I say to the member for Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: How can you have a three-way street? Have you ever driven on a three-way street?

Mr. Reyecraft: There are four different directions, I say to the member for Algoma, four different directions, and three parties in this Legislature.

I say the co-operation has to be displayed by the representatives for all parties. It is not solely the government's responsibility to make sure that these negotiations do not break down and to make some kind of concession, to acquiesce in some way, when either of the opposition parties refuses to give in.

As I said before, I agree that we, as a large majority, have to be sensitive to the situation within the opposition parties, but I also suggest that there is an obligation on the part of those opposition parties to be sensitive also, not only to the situation in this Legislature as it relates to numbers but also as it exists in this province.

It being almost six of the clock—

Mr. Breagh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to correct the record. I seem to have confused the chief government whip. I would like the record to clearly show this afternoon that I never give up, I always get even. Ask Frank Miller, wherever he is.

Mr. Reyecraft: Mr. Speaker, having heard that very unco-operative and uncompromising admonishment, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this debate.

Mr. Reville: It is not quite six of the clock. The member for Middlesex, normally a more careful netminder than this, has left a rebound and the puck has come out to my stick, so I am going to stickhandle.

An hon. member: Very clever.

Mr. Reville: It was clever. I am a very clever fellow, as the member shall learn to his sorrow.

There are a few moments of the clock. I just wanted to say, following the lead of the member for Middlesex, my counterpart, at least in terms of an office in this House, although I was never a netminder myself, he started off by saying, "What in heaven's name is going on at Queen's Park?"

I think the answer is clear, and if people are puzzled, as they may well be puzzled, they have only to watch, to listen to or to read the speech of my colleague and seatmate, the member for Oshawa, and they will know well what is going on here at Queen's Park. They will perhaps be moved to indicate to the members of this vast majority, under which we groan from time to

time, that in fact the advice of the member for Oshawa is good advice indeed and that, in fact, if we cannot in this Legislature at least agree on the rules we will follow, then we will find it very difficult to get to those matters of policy on which we must, because of our differing ideologies, differ from time to time.

It seems to me it is necessary for us to develop rules within which we will live and which we will all pledge to operate with, and I do not believe that has been the case in this instance. I will not attempt to match memories with those others

who have spoken before me, although it has been said from time to time that my memory and a steel trap have some similarities. They are both outlawed.

Mr. Campbell: The period is over.

Mr. Reville: I am glad the member was paying attention.

On motion by Mr. Reville, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
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Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
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Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
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 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
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 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
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Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, October 26, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers



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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, October 26, 1988

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CALIFORNIA GRAPES

Mr. Mackenzie: This morning at 10 a.m., I was privileged to continue the chain of fasters who have taken over from Cesar Chavez, United Farm Workers of America, since he ended his 36-day fast to highlight the plight of grape workers and their families in the vineyards of California and to warn the public about the dangers of buying and eating California grapes.

Many public figures have worn this medal since Jesse Jackson first took it from Cesar Chavez following his fast to continue the protest. I myself took over from John Martin, president of Local 1005, the big Stelco local in Hamilton, this morning. The two days of total fasting is a very small contribution to help alert Canadians to the dangers of California grapes. Released this morning was a small study done by the grape workers on Hamilton supermarkets, which showed that 14 out of the 16 stores carrying California grapes showed pesticide residues of nerve gases, organophosphates and carbamates.

It is a sad commentary that it is the workers themselves who have suffered in the California vineyards who have to continue this campaign, who have to do the testing and the alerting of the public that should be being done by the growers, the chain stores and the government itself. I am proud to be part of this campaign and I urge all citizens of Ontario not to buy California grapes.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. Sterling: The last week of October has been designated National Small Business Week, recognizing the contributions made to our economy by the men and women who own and operate Canada's small businesses. National Small Business Week finds its origins in an international small business congress held seven years ago in Canada. At that time, the Federal Business Development Bank and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce organized special events to coincide with the congress.

National Small Business Week has now become a tradition in Canada. This week gives us an opportunity to thank the true risk-takers in our economy, those who start with little more than an idea and a belief in themselves, with no corporate backing and no financial security. The hours are long and the outcome uncertain when starting a business, but the personal satisfaction can be very rewarding.

Every year, hundreds of Ontarians go into business for themselves—an encouraging sign of vitality and confidence. Ontario has over 300,000 small businesses which account for almost half of our workforce. Recent studies have shown that 87 per cent of all jobs created in this province come from businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Another interesting trend is that half of all the new small businesses since 1982 have been started by women.

This week, we join with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations in honouring Canada's small businesses, the backbone of our economy.

RECYCLING

Mr. Daigeler: At a time when some municipalities are just beginning to use the blue box, I am proud to inform this House that the Barrhaven community in my riding has just begun a trial plastics recycling program. For the next three months, some 6,000 households will be asked to put their plastic waste products in the blue recycling containers alongside their paper, bottles and tins.

This trial program will help identify the amount of plastics the average household throws away. It will also establish the best way for getting the waste from individual homes to recycling plants. Three kinds of trucks will be used. One will grind the plastics to small pieces right on the spot. Another truck will flatten the plastics, and the compressed plastic will then be granulated at a recycling plant. The third truck will simply collect the plastics and bring them to the plant for processing.

Barrhaven, the Nepean subdivision in which I live, was chosen as the test community for this project because its residents have a 90 per cent

participation rate in the blue box recycling program currently in place.

I congratulate Laidlaw Waste Systems Ltd. for this initiative and the residents of Barrhaven for their participation. I am sure the experiment will succeed and I encourage other municipalities to follow Nepean's lead on plastics recycling.

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. Wildman: Yesterday in the House, during question period, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) reacted in a rather strange way to a question I raised related to a published report of a written statement made by his colleague the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) on Labour Day weekend in which that member indicated that the Ministry of Natural Resources would initiate a province-wide consultation on provincial parks policy within 30 days.

I simply asked the Minister of Natural Resources when this review was going to commence. The minister tried to argue that his colleague was saying there would be a review or consultation about the parks that have not yet been regulated when, in fact, that was not the case. As a matter of fact, the minister's own director of parks refuted the comments made in writing by the member for Timiskaming and also signed, I believe, by the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), that there would be province-wide consultation.

It appears that the northern members of the caucus opposite are attempting to undermine the Minister of Natural Resources and his staff's provincial parks policy and the Minister of Natural Resources cannot deal with the issue and so, therefore, accuses other members of untruths.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mrs. Marland: I rise today to remind the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) that the taxpayers of Halton-Mississauga have been without adequate ambulance service now for 10 weeks. On September 2, I called on the provincial government to move immediately to mediate an end to the strike involving the ambulance service employees. Today, almost two months later, we see no end in sight.

While the Minister of Health is obviously not concerned about the health and safety of these residents, I am. The minister has told the media that she is monitoring the situation. Obviously, the minister has had her monitors turned off for the past 10 weeks.

Daily, I am hearing from ambulance service users who have had their loved ones' lives put at risk because of the waiting times experienced in emergency situations. With between three and five ambulances to service over 600,000 people, it takes little imagination to understand how this shortfall transpires into longer waiting times when the need for immediate response is critical.

1340

Today I am releasing a fact sheet showing some examples of unacceptable service that the ministry believes to be acceptable. Included in this list is a four-year-old Burlington boy who swallowed rubbing alcohol and had to be transferred, with his mother, to hospital in a fire truck. Firemen waited 15 minutes for an ambulance before being forced to take action themselves. How many more will suffer before this minister resolves this crisis?

JON JENKINS

Mr. Furlong: This evening, over 1,000 citizens of Durham region will be gathering at the Oshawa Civic Auditorium to pay tribute to Chief Jon Jenkins. Jon Jenkins joined the Oshawa police force on May 16, 1954. He moved quickly through the ranks to become chief of the Oshawa force in 1969. In 1974, with the implementation of regional government, he became the region's first chief of police.

Jon Jenkins has announced his retirement, effective November 30, 1988, after almost 35 years of dedicated service to his community. He leaves behind a very reputable force with high standards. I have known Jon Jenkins for over 16 years and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge his outstanding public service. He has exhibited an outstanding devotion to duty during a period of tremendous change which has placed an ever-increasing demand on the policing profession.

Jon Jenkins has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment throughout his career. In addition to his police duties, he has volunteered time and support for numerous community projects. I think it is a tribute to this man that I have never heard a negative comment about him. He has excelled in staff relations and in community liaison.

He has promoted law enforcement not only in Durham region but across Canada. He is a past president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The citizens of Durham region are indebted to Jon Jenkins. We thank him for his

service. May he enjoy his retirement years in good health and much happiness.

Mr. Breagh: We have just a few seconds left on the clock, but I want to join with the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong) in congratulating Jon Jenkins on his retirement. It will be a great evening at the Civic Auditorium, paying tribute to somebody who has served his community extremely well. This time next year, when members go to the Ontario racetracks, they can be sure that everything will be secure and kosher, because Jon Jenkins is going to look after security at the racetracks. Congratulations to him.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Last May, the government introduced proposals to co-ordinate transportation development in the greater Toronto area. One of the transit initiatives we felt would address current and future challenges was a closer link between GO Transit and the Toronto Transit Commission. Today I would like to update members on what we have done and are doing to improve service between those two systems.

Members will be aware that a monthly Twin Pass pilot project between GO and TTC began last February with the full co-operation of Metro Toronto, the TTC and GO Transit. Combining GO and TTC fares, Twin Passes were available only at GO sales locations in Union Station and were of benefit only to riders whose GO rail trips started or ended at Union Station. Projections indicated possible sales of 3,000 Twin Passes per month. I am pleased to say that in the month of October sales were in excess of 4,000. Since the pilot project began, other sale locations have been set up to meet the positive response by commuters.

To extend service further, I am pleased to announce that the November Twin Pass is now on sale at all other 14 GO rail stations within Metropolitan Toronto. With this expansion of sales to all Metro GO rail stations, transit riders will have more flexibility, since passes will now permit transfers between the two services at all Metro GO rail stations.

Among the continuing advantages will be the option of a single purchase each month, as well as the \$20 saving, for the Twin Pass, as compared to buying separate passes for both services. The November Twin Pass will also have a new look, since the separate GO and TTC passes have been amalgamated into one, one-half

TTC Metropass and the other GO Transit pass. TTC riders will still require photo identification.

To improve ease of access between the two systems, improvements to entrances and, in some cases, additions of walkways are in the planning and design stages at six Metro GO rail stations: Weston, Scarborough, Danforth, Agincourt, Old Cummer and Oriole.

Another service to speed processing of passengers on the GO rail system is being introduced—next week—in November. The proof-of-payment honour system, first introduced as a pilot project on the Milton line, requires passengers to show a valid ticket or pass only when asked to do so during spot checks. The expansion of this system will mean added efficiency on the GO Transit network and greater convenience to passengers.

We have made a commitment to provide residents of the greater Toronto area with improved transit service. I believe these projects signify important steps towards meeting this commitment.

RESPONSES

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Bryden: Responding to the statement by the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) about the updating of the GO Transit and Toronto Transit Commission fare arrangements and service integration, naturally we are in favour of improving GO service, particularly for the many thousands of people who have been forced to buy houses at great distances from the city of Toronto, where they work. Therefore, to provide them with better commuter service is a very necessary thing.

I hope the minister will also join with the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) in discouraging the building of luxury, huge-lot housing at great distances just because GO Transit is available, when he needs his money for also updating TTC services and subway systems like the Sheppard Avenue subway.

I think this is something that has been announced before, but now we are getting it in one statement. I think people will be looking for more initiatives from the Minister of Transportation on how to get more people out of their cars and into public transit of all kinds, not just GO Transit.

Mrs. Grier: As someone who has two GO stations in her riding, I too welcome the statement by the minister today. The integration of the TTC and GO Transit is, of course, something to be desired.

However, there is a real flaw in this integration. I would like to point out to the minister that the station at Long Branch, which is very close to my heart, is one that serves many people from Mississauga who drive to the GO station within Metropolitan Toronto. They cannot integrate their Mississauga Transit tickets with the GO station tickets in Long Branch and have no parking provided by GO Transit at Long Branch, something we have been asking the minister for during the last two, three, four years. We are told there are no plans to expand that parking. I hope the minister will look into that, as well as the other improvements he is making to the system.

Mr. Breagh: Just to show the minister that I am here to help, I know of a way to sell even more of these Twin Passes. I hope that by December the minister will have the GO rail operative to Whitby. When he gets it operative to Oshawa, then he will be able to sell a whole lot more of these Twin Passes all over this whole region, and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will be so happy because there will be just gobs of money coming in from people who really need GO trains in Oshawa.

Mrs. Marland: I know of even more ways to spend—to sell more of these passes.

Interjections.

Mr. Breagh: You just cannot keep a good idea down.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Marland: I would like the Minister of Transportation to benefit from this very sincere advice from someone who does have the GO Transit service going through her riding; that is, the whole system would be far more intensely used if, in fact, it had two features. One would be more frequency of trains and the other would be more locations for people to board those trains.

The solution is simply that the minister could sell more of these passes if the line were electrified. It is my understanding that unless the lines are electrified, you cannot add more stations because you need a certain distance between the stations to pick up speed. That is the answer I have been receiving for some time from the chairman of the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority, whom we all know very well.

1350

If it is simply a matter of electrifying those lines, which we lease from Canadian National in terms of the Lakeshore line, then I think it is something this government should consider, if it were a forward-planning government looking at

the traffic congestion that exists today for commuters who would like to buy these passes if they were a realistic alternative for transportation for people who work downtown—in fact, at the moment, it is not realistic for a lot of people because of the lack of accessibility to stations.

If we could have the minister consider that, certainly we would look forward to his next announcement, which would be a capital plan to build more stations, to have more Kiss 'N Ride locations, to use the technical term, and to be able to do that through the electrification. Therefore, the minister's next announcement will tell us about the tremendous increase in sales, which will mean we are looking to the real needs of transportation for the people in the southern corridor.

When we are looking at a city of 750,000 in Mississauga alone, this government today obviously has to do more than just talk. We would like to see some major plans under way to improve transportation for the public, and the trains are certainly a good beginning if they are a real alternative. At the moment they are not, but we will look forward to the government making some hard decisions about where money has to be spent for the commuters who would like to use GO Transit and indeed buy the minister's passes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent of the House to make some comments about the disaster of Hurricane Joan in Nicaragua.

Agreed to.

HURRICANE JOAN

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are a number of members of this House present who have a fairly intimate understanding of the problems of Nicaragua, having travelled there just a year and a bit ago together to learn at first hand, and it is for that reason I would like to make some remarks about what has happened to Nicaragua as a result of this hurricane disaster.

Much press has been given to the horrendous problems that befell Jamaica and the Yucatan from the previous hurricane, but in fact very little has been said about the enormous devastation which has hit Nicaragua. In the city of Bluefields, 90 per cent of the housing has been destroyed; the Corn Islands, just off Bluefields, have had 100 per cent of their housing destroyed; 71 are dead, much in excess of the number killed in the Jamaican disaster, to which we have responded so generously; 300,00 people have been displaced. In the Rama River, 70 per cent of the housing has gone.

Finally this year they had hoped that their coffee crop, their major export crop, was going to be a boom for them after several years of bad harvests. I was informed by the ambassador this morning that the entire coffee harvest has been destroyed, that the winds were so severe that all the beans were taken from the bushes. The rice harvest has likewise been destroyed, so their staple food product has been wiped out at a time when it was already in very, very short supply.

There has been aid promised from western Europe, substantial amounts from West Germany and other countries. Our country has decided to send \$250,000. I repeat, \$250,000.

I think this is an incredible shame. The national government has also indicated that it would provide matching funds to the NGOs, the nongovernmental organizations, which are already providing various kinds of war relief in that country at this time. Final approval by the Red Cross has not been made official as yet because the estimates of the amount of damage are still just coming in.

I would hope that the government today would respond to this plea to say that we should be responding in kind to the people of Nicaragua in the terrible troubles they are facing now, just as we did with Jamaica, and that we should be just as generous. It may be that our Jamaican community in this province is much larger but there are increasing numbers of Nicaraguan refugees coming to this country, though we should not be making our bequests on that kind of basis anyway.

I would hope that this government will respond to what Ambassador Lacayo told me this morning was their major need. They have need for medical supplies today and tomorrow for the wounded in the Caribbean coast communities. They do not expect that any of the relief coming from western Europe will get there before the weekend. It would strike me that it would be very possible, if our government were to work closely with the federal government and its agencies, that some medical relief and basics, blankets for instance, could be shipped down as soon as possible to help with what is a tremendous ordeal for a country which has already suffered so much.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I wish to join the member for Scarborough West in drawing the attention of the House to this particularly tragic event. I might say, on a somewhat lighter subject and in the middle of a heavy debate, that since the hurricane bears my name I feel I almost should draft special apologies on behalf of Mother

Nature for the tragedy that has befallen them by my namesake.

However, speaking in a much more serious vein, I had the honour of visiting Nicaragua with other members of this Legislature and seeing, in a very personal way, the tremendous efforts being made there by a people coming out from under dictatorship. In fact, it was another national disaster that probably gave them the will to get rid of their past dictator and move towards democracy. I say in all sincerity that there is a great effort there that is very important to everybody in North America as well as Central America that this government manages to stay on the side of democracy and to become a demonstration of the fact that in the midst of that kind of poverty and upheaval, democracy can work.

Another national disaster is a very difficult thing for them to face unassisted at this time and it is a time when we need to buckle in behind them and say that we do care, we will help and we will help in the immediacy of the problem.

I would want to point out to the members that while we were visiting in Nicaragua, we saw many efforts by provincial and federal groups to assist Nicaragua in its recovery from its past disaster and its uprising to establish representative government, in its early stages at least, and that indeed church groups, charitable organizations, universities and many groups have put an investment into Nicaragua. There are dairy farms there. There is—not hydro, that is an American term—an electric factory—what is the word I want? With Canada's help, they are creating electricity there out of the steam from volcanoes. The people of Canada, through many groups, have been part of some very creative things.

We have an investment in Nicaragua that we should and need to follow up with in the immediacy of its present crisis. I hope we can find ways to do so and will support anything we can do.

Mrs. Marland: I rise on behalf of our caucus to express our grave concern and deep sympathy to the people of Nicaragua. Obviously, this kind of disaster is something that no country is in a position to bear. In particular, this country is without many of the resources that other areas of the world might have naturally.

We feel that the kind of assistance that is needed has to be assistance to the maximum potential of the countries that have the ability to help. We obviously feel that the assistance is required for all the right reasons and should be given wholeheartedly in a nonpolitical manner.

I400

I can only imagine, as I am sure most members of this House can, how terrifying and devastating that experience must be. We watched the television news and saw the typhoon in Manila. Recently, we saw the storm in Jamaica. Now, as we think today of the 300,000 people who are homeless in Nicaragua, I am sure each one of us only has to think that for those people who live in that particular part of the world it must seem like a real nightmare. How fortunate we are that we do not risk that kind of experience. However, because we are as well, as healthy and as prosperous as we are, when there is this kind of devastation in another part of the world, surely we have a very real and moral obligation to help.

I cannot help but refer to the fact that right now in the Arctic we have a wonderful example of the two superpowers or supernations of the world coming together with a common cause. Surely, if that amount of money can be expended to save two whales, we can look for far in excess of that kind of investment to be done for human families in Nicaragua.

ORAL QUESTIONS**YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. B. Rae: In the absence of the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), I would like to put a question to the Premier. The Premier will no doubt recall various announcements by this government with respect to the use of government land for housing. I wonder if the Premier could explain why it is that when it came to the Malvern lots, which no doubt the Premier will recall were a very substantial sale, 52 per cent of the lots were sold to Cedarland Properties and Panda Blue Construction, which companies are owned, as I am sure the Premier will be aware, by Mr. De Gasperis, Rudolph Bratty and Marco Muzzo.

These lots were sold at record-high prices, ranging from \$104,750 to \$147,888. I wonder why it is the policy of the government of Ontario to be selling off government land to private real estate developers, the most powerful developers now in this entire region, instead of guaranteeing the use of that land for nonprofit, affordable housing.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I recall the facts in that particular situation, the property was sold at the top of the market. I cannot tell the member how much money was returned to the Treasury, but all that money was dedicated to go into housing. As I understand the ministry's policy, it is the following: to maximize the use of land and

money. If land can be sold in certain situations to gain money to put into housing in other areas where it is more efficient and where there is more, shall we say, bang for the buck or more housing for the dollars expended, obviously those business decisions have to be made. As I understand it, that was the thinking in that particular case.

Mr. B. Rae: It is land that is the most expensive and difficult commodity to find. Once it has been sold, it is gone. In fact, it is gone for ever and, in more cases than not, it has gone for what can only be described as Liberal speculation.

I would like to ask the Premier another question about Liberal speculation. In 1984, a Richmond Hill cement company named Richvale Block and Ready-Mix made an agreement to buy a farm near Highway 404 and 16th Avenue for \$4,853,000. The land was rezoned and then resold to Magna International, a company which is not unknown to the Premier and whose chief executive officer is now a Liberal Party candidate, for \$13.2 million. Magna then resold the land, in August 1987, for \$24.9 million to a company known as 16-3 Developments, which has yet to build on the site.

Does the Premier think this kind of speculative activity is appropriate in our current economic climate with respect to the cost of land in this province? What does he intend to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There is no question there has been a high degree of speculation going on in a wide variety of areas. The member points out one example, and I assume in this matter his facts are correct. We have a very hot economy, as my honourable friend knows. He has raised a question in this house before about a speculation tax, and I think the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has answered him fully on that question in the past. It is a function of the very high growth that is being enjoyed and, as the member knows, it is a mixed blessing in an area like greater Toronto.

Mr. B. Rae: By way of final supplementary, given the amount of Liberal speculation that is going on, why does the Premier continue to reject the idea and the policy of a tax on speculative profits, which might hurt some of his Liberal friends but which would do a lot in order to keep the price of land down right through southern Ontario? Why does he not do that to keep the price of land down?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend is indulging in a tactic that he generally does not indulge in. I am not sure what brought about this new change in him today, but I say to him, if he

has a charge to make, let him be a man and stand up and make it in this House.

Mr. Speaker: New question, to which minister?

Mr. B. Rae: The charge is quite clear: There is speculative greed going on and the Premier is not doing anything about it.

CHILD CARE

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Social Services a question. A young woman named Cheryl Brooks, who is 23 years old and who is in the members' gallery today, phoned my constituency office just the other day. She has tried to go back to school. She was admitted to York Humber High School. She was told by a group called the employment support initiatives—which ironically, the minister mentioned in his answer to me the other day—that it would be prepared to help her with her baby-sitting costs. She has now been told that in fact she cannot get help for baby-sitting costs because the budget of ESI has been fully spent or committed. In fact, the child care crisis is affecting the system all the way through the piece.

Do we really have to continue to bring cases forward again and again before he understands that there is a child care crisis in this province and that something needs to be done about it?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will perhaps recall that I shared with him a few days ago that in Metro there are 700 child care spaces allocated specifically to ESI for the very reasons that he indicated. He will also recall that I drew to his attention that we have strongly recommended to Metro that it use a priority waiting list for the distribution of its subsidized spaces.

He may be aware of the fact that in Metro—and to the best of my knowledge this does not take place anywhere else in Ontario; at least we have not been able to discover it—there are approximately 900 families with incomes of \$40,000 who have subsidies. I do not think that is a very good use of scarce spaces, and they really do need to be reallocated on a priority basis.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister's political party, the Liberal Party, ran in the last election saying that it wanted to create child care as a public service and it did not want to turn it into a welfare service. Now we have the Minister of Community and Social Services saying this system should revert to a welfare service in order to meet his program.

I ask him this simple question: Does he not recognize the level of human need that is there,

that is causing young women to drop out of school when everything he is saying in all his public pronouncements is that he wants to encourage people to stay in school?

Judge Thomson said it should be a guaranteed policy in terms of what happens to women who want to return to the workplace. Why is he forcing women back on welfare, forced to pay for baby-sitting out of their own welfare cheques, instead of being in school on a subsidized basis?

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Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would strongly suggest to the honourable member that he is making my very argument: that the 18,000 subsidized spaces in Metro—which represent, by the way, approximately 60 per cent of the total 32,000 spaces in Metro—should be allocated on a best-needs basis. That is precisely what we are recommending: that the families that have the greater need should get those spaces first. That is not what is being done in Metro.

I would remind the honourable member that even his national leader, Mr. Broadbent, in Monday night's debate, said essentially the same thing. He said that an NDP government in Canada would continue to insist that those who can afford to do so would pay for day care while subsidized spaces would be allocated to those people who cannot afford to do it. That is precisely what he said.

Mr. B. Rae: What the minister is describing is a welfare philosophy instead of a public service philosophy. We have empty spaces in child care. We have 1,800 empty spaces. If the minister's policy were to take effect, he would be throwing people out of spaces who are now there in order to replace them with people who are now on the list. That is not a sensible policy. That is not a sound policy. That is not a fair policy, and, I might add, it is not New Democratic Party policy. That is Liberal Party policy, which is a policy that the people of this province want to change with respect to child care.

Is the minister honestly telling the House today that there are no prospects for change in the Liberal Party's program of child care which is forcing Cheryl Brooks to stay at home and to stay on welfare? Is he saying that she has to stay on welfare? Is that the implication of the statement he is making today? Is that what he is saying?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I understand that the honourable member was part of the group in Mr. Broadbent's entourage known as the spin doctors. I have to presume that he supports the position of his national leader, and the position of his national leader, expressed on the television

debate on Monday night, clearly said that some people were going to pay while the dollars available in an NDP government—God forbid that that should ever happen.

Given the fact that there are 900 families with incomes of \$40,000 who are getting it and the honourable member suggests we should not make any change, I can only presume that he believes those 900 families should get it before somebody else, like the very person he describes, who have incomes of less than \$20,000. If that is what he means, then he had better say it.

Mr. B. Rae: Are you suggesting that they should leave; are you saying that those families should leave? Make up your mind.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Give him another supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for Nipissing.

Hon Mr. Bradley: You saved him, Mike.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member is waiting patiently.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Dr. Spin.

Mr. B. Rae: Are you going down there to kick those families out.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Do you know what a priority list means?

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for Nipissing.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I am sure not going to go to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), I will tell you.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Premier. I would like to get a little more specific on the York region situation. In this morning's Globe and Mail, there appeared an article that states that three York businessmen with ties to provincial and local officials have monopolized housing in that area to such an extent that their activities have inflated the price of a house in Metro Toronto.

Let me read from the article. An associate of these men is quoted as saying, "I think they are the reason people can't afford to buy homes." Another associate is quoted as saying, "You can't develop land anywhere around Toronto without their okay."

There are numerous serious charges levied in this article. Given the extent of the housing crisis we are facing and the millions of dollars we as a government are spending to try to find housing for people, will the Premier immediately order a

public inquiry into the situation in York region to determine what activities have taken place and the legality of those activities?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Obviously, this government will not support any whiff of illegality or any suggestion that something is happening that is untoward or that anyone is abusing the public trust. I say to my honourable friend that if he has some evidence of that in any way, we will immediately ask the Ontario Provincial Police to look into the situation, and should the situation warrant it, obviously we will take the appropriate measures. I say to my honourable friend that if he has any of that information, then clearly we, as public officials, have a responsibility to get into that matter immediately.

Mr. Harris: We have been waiting three years for the OPP investigation of Wyda Systems (Canada).

Let us be clear about the seriousness of the situation. The Globe and Mail is stating that these three men have influenced the decision-making of elected officials to the point where they virtually control development in York region.

The article states, "The Globe found that the three men control an elaborate and effective municipal election financing machine." It goes on to say:

"Three politicians said they were also offered or given large sums of money through the three developers' companies for their campaigns immediately after being elected in the 1985 election.

"In fact, developers, builders and contractors contributed as much as 100 per cent of the money that was raised by some candidates."

I think every member of this House should be concerned about these statements for they reflect not only on our present housing crisis, but also on the very integrity of our system.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Harris: Will the Premier take the very necessary step of ordering a public inquiry to get this matter cleared up?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the honourable member's question and in some senses I have sympathy with it. I also remind the honourable member that we have brought in legislation in this House with respect to municipal reform, and indeed reform of this Legislature, that hopefully would deal with some of these matters.

We can all stand here and read an article out of a newspaper with no specific allegations, but if there are any allegations of wrongdoing, then I

think we have a responsibility to look into that in great detail. My honourable friend understands the difference between innuendo and fact, I am sure. Let me assure him that this government has nothing to defend in that regard, nothing at all. If he has any suggestion that there is an impropriety, that there are things we should be looking at, if there is any criminal activity, then obviously if my friend wants to make that suggestion or give us facts to substantiate that or even a prima facie case, then I can assure him we will take the appropriate action.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to hear the Premier say that. The Premier then will certainly have no reason to fear a public inquiry, nor does my party, nor I am sure does the New Democratic Party.

I think it is perhaps the height of irony if not cynicism that this government, which has been urging regions to build lower-cost housing, appears to be in the financial back pocket of the very developers who are driving up the cost of housing in and around Metro Toronto. These three men, through their companies, in one year donated over \$110,000 to the Ontario Liberal Party, over 70 per cent of all donations from York region. We already know the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) received more than half her donations from the building industry.

Given the amount of money referred to in the *Globe and Mail* article, I think we need a public inquiry to determine just what role developers are playing in making decisions, not just at Queen's Park but at local municipalities and councils as well.

I will ask the Premier one more time, will he not accept and understand that with the perception, if he wants to call it that—the facts as the *Globe and Mail* reported them—he must order a public inquiry so that everyone who cannot afford to buy a house will know whose fault it is?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand opposition politics. I understand reading the newspaper and trying to spin that into a question. He wants to make allegations about particular people's reputations. That is fair enough. He has a forum here and he cannot be sued in this House for anything he wants to say about anybody. I understand that.

I assure my honourable friend that we have absolutely nothing to defend here. These are people who assembled the land in his administration, not in ours. These are fund-raisers for the Conservative Party—Mr. Bratty—not for the Liberal Party. These are his friends, not ours. I say to him that we have tried to bring a new standard to this government, be it in conflict-of-

interest legislation for us and for the municipalities or limits on donations.

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I think my honourable friend wants to think out very carefully whom he is accusing of what, because if he has any facts of anything, I can assure him we will do everything we possible can to root out corruption, influence peddling or any other suggestions he has in this House. But I say to him again, when one is dealing with people's reputations, Liberal, Conservative or NDP, one wants to exercise some degree of responsibility in that regard.

His response is to have an inquiry every time somebody's name is mentioned in the paper in this province. We support no suggestion of any impropriety that is going on. Believe me, we have absolutely nothing to defend, but I think my friend would want to build a little stronger case before he starts impugning people's names.

RENTERPRISE LOAN

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Premier and it concerns exactly his new standards. It is with respect to a decision made by the former Minister of Housing, the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling), and implemented by the current Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), concerning just who exactly profits from his nonprofit and public housing programs in this province.

Specifically, I am referring the Premier to a controversial construction project in the city of Timmins that has been before the city of Timmins council in the last week. Can the Premier justify the awarding of a Renterprise approval in Timmins to his campaign worker, Joe Fontana, and his associate, Vince Ciccone, both of London, and allowing them within one minute on September 3 to flip land for a profit of \$66,820?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have no knowledge of the matter the honourable member is speaking of. If he wants to give me the details, I will obviously look into it.

Mr. Pope: Not only was the land acquired in one minute and disposed of the next for a profit of \$66,820, but can the Premier explain to us how someone like Joe Fontana, who professes to be one of his campaign workers, with no development experience, no construction experience and no site available, would ever be approved for a Renterprise loan in the first place?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have absolutely no knowledge of the matter my honourable friend is talking about. I can assure him we will look at it.

Somebody just handed me a note, and if I can understand it, I will read it to him.

Mr. Pope: The fact of the matter is that over the past few months this project has been beset by deficiencies in construction, stop-work orders, construction liens, poor quality workmanship, still not completed, occupied by tenants on a rent subsidy basis that his Minister of Housing is involved in. His Minister of Housing approved financial support to the tune of \$310,000. Now they are attempting to convert the project into condominiums to get out from under.

Can the Premier explain to the tenants of Timmins, who need this housing desperately, why he has allowed deterioration in the administration of the Renterprise program in this province, and specifically the disgraceful events that went on in Timmins with respect to this land and his campaign worker?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I said, I will look at the facts and share them with my honourable friend. He may well know something I do not know.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. B. Rae: I want to come back to the Premier on this question of what the Legislature can do and what is an appropriate government response to the problems of concentration of land ownership, speculation in land, land flipping and the relationship between these activities and various municipal and regional governments.

Is the Premier saying that before he would order a public inquiry, he must have proof of criminal or quasi-criminal activity? Is that the test he is asking those of us who are asking for such an inquiry to meet?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There is some veiled suggestion of some impropriety in this House, both by the Leader of the Opposition and the member opposite, on the basis of some newspaper article this morning.

I am interested in the member's views. A public inquiry into what: a public inquiry into the price of land, a public inquiry into certain people's behaviour, a certain region or members of this House? What is the member talking about?

Mr. B. Rae: Let's be quite specific what we are talking about. We are talking about speculation. The Premier says—well, he has to say that accusations have been made. Nobody is making allegations. People are simply describing an activity which is taking place because of a particular economic climate. They are also describing concentrations of ownership. None of

these things is against the law. Maybe the law should be changed; that is another issue.

The Premier is asking me, what would the nature of the inquiry be? I would say to the Premier, why not have an inquiry into the concentration of land ownership, the price of land and the relationship between the development industry and regional and local governments?

Does the Premier not think that is a question worth asking and worth determining as to whether our laws are strong enough in terms of conflict, in terms of election expenditure, in terms of zoning decisions, in terms of activities of local governments involved and in terms of the activities and the extent of concentration of ownership within the industry? Does the Premier not think that is a subject worth inquiry? The case is clearly there that it is causing a problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not sure my honourable friend has thought this through very carefully. He is suggesting that we have an inquiry into the nature of speculation in land, perhaps even in securities and other goods as well, suggesting on the basis of some article that there is something strange happening, a relationship between certain developers and certain local politicians, certain names, that presumably have to come down to facts in some case or other.

I do not think it is all that hard to figure out that we are in one of the fastest growth areas in the world today in the Golden Horseshoe and that is putting enormous pressure on the system. We have people moving in all the time and the demand is exceeding the supply, particularly in the housing area. That is why we are working so very hard to bring about corrective action.

Surely my honourable friend understands the economics of that situation. If there is a suggestion that some people are deliberately doing these kinds of things and doing something illegal, then obviously we have to look at it, but I say I do not think a public inquiry or royal commission on this for the next three years is going to solve anything.

DAVID ATKINSON

Mr. Sterling: I have a question again for the Attorney General. The Attorney General yesterday indicated to me that he was not personally involved in the decision to give David Atkinson, a gangland enforcer, immunity and a new identity under the witness protection program. I am very concerned about the procedure which is now in place if what is reported is true. I would

therefore like the Attorney General to clarify, for the public's sake, what in fact transpired before giving Mr. Atkinson the benefit of the witness protection program.

Specifically, is it true that there was only consideration of his formal criminal record and one generic question as to whether or not he had been involved in other illegal acts—a question which I believe was probably put more to determine the credibility of the witness with regard to the preliminary inquiry, rather than a concern for the protection of the public if he was given immunity?

Hon. Mr. Scott: As I said yesterday to the honourable member, the decision to use the witness as a crown witness in the criminal proceedings against the Atkinson gang was a decision that was made by the crown attorney in the county of York in indicating to the court the witnesses he proposed to call. The decision to grant the witness—who it was feared would be injured, if not killed—admission to the program was made by the director of the program in the Ministry of the Attorney General.

At the time that application was made, the witness's criminal record was known and it was known that he had been asked by the police if he had committed any other crimes apart from the crimes about which he made disclosure in order to provide evidence against the Atkinson gang. He apparently indicated that there were no such other crimes, and in that sense, the crimes that were described at the preliminary inquiry under cross-examination came to the attention of the police and the crown for the first time then.

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Mr. Sterling: Given that immunity was given to this individual not in fact on the basis of a full disclosure of the criminal activity that had been undertaken by this particular individual, does the Attorney General not think a reconsideration of the case must be taken due to the fact that the public safety is much more paramount than a deal that was given under false assumptions or false information?

Hon. Mr. Scott: First of all, I have some difficulty with the use of the word "immunity" in this case. This man came forward and said he had evidence to give that would implicate some four or five persons out of a gang of nine in a series of very large robberies. The police, as the honourable member knows, had spent eight years trying to get evidence against this gang, which is regarded as the most sophisticated, violent robbery gang in Canadian history.

This witness and one other came forward and said they would give evidence. They said if they told their story to the police, it might be that they, as well as the others, would be charged, because they had participated, I think, as a getaway driver in one of these cases. The police indicated that if they gave evidence and it was true, they would not be charged.

That happens, I must tell the honourable member, every day in our court system and it happens for the reason I gave the other day: it is virtually impossible to find evidence of many crimes, particularly gangland crimes and white collar crimes, if we do not have the evidence of people on the inside who can provide the essential identification. That is what my friend calls "immunity," and that is a fancy word, of course, for a practice in law enforcement and in the justice system that is used in every civilized country.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Breagh: This man will never be a judge.

Mr. Speaker: It seems like quite a full answer. New question, the member for Oakville South.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Carrothers: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. The minister is no doubt aware of a proposal by the St. Lawrence Cement Co. to burn refuse-derived fuel in its cement kiln in south Mississauga. This proposal has raised quite a concern with many of my constituents that it will cause a health hazard. Can the minister assure my constituents that this proposal will receive a full environmental assessment?

Mr. B. Rae: He wouldn't do it for anybody else. Why would he do it for you?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Yes, I will attempt to answer the question for the member, despite the interjections from members of the official opposition.

As the member may know, it is a proposal for, I think it is called refuse-derived fuels, which the company is interested in burning in lieu of coal to produce energy in its operations.

Previous to this government's being in power, this operation would not have come under the Environmental Assessment Act. It had one proposal for a test burn, by the way, which it withdrew, but since this proposal would involve over 100,000 tonnes per day of garbage- or refuse-derived fuel it would certainly come under

the Environmental Assessment Act. It would go through a number of different stages, and one of those stages would involve rather extensive public comment on both the review that is done by the Ministry of the Environment and the reviews that are done by all government departments and by other agencies.

I want to assure the member that the proposal, if it were to proceed at all, would certainly have to go through the Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr. Carrothers: Many of my constituents are concerned that the air emission quality standards are not strict enough and that emissions of such things as dioxins or lead may be too high. Can the minister assure my constituents that the air quality standards will be high enough if this proposal goes ahead?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member may be aware that I announced in the House some time ago that there would be an upgrading and updating of the air pollution regulation. In our ministry, we call it regulation 308. It is considerably out of date, in my view. Even though from time to time, in special circumstances and in individual circumstances, we have applied new and different restrictions, the overall regulation requires updating. That is why I have put out for comment by environmental groups, public interest groups and others a proposal for drastically upgrading and updating this particular set of emission standards.

I can assure the member that the philosophy that will be followed in this will not be that dispersion will be the answer, but rather that bottom-of-the-stack emissions standards will be what is significant.

The member will perhaps know, from an approval given by the Environmental Assessment Board and the Ontario Municipal Board just a couple of days ago, that some 40 conditions, for instance, were placed on a similar approval given for an energy-from-waste site in Brampton. Of course, this is perhaps a different kind of proposal. The board, the Ministry of the Environment and others who review them look at each one of these as to its potential individual impact.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour concerning Bill 162 and the vocational rehabilitation provisions in the bill. The minister will know that the key recommendation in the Majesky-Minna task force on vocational rehabilitation was that every injured worker in the province who suffered a serious

injury have a statutory right to rehabilitation services. He will also know that the task force defined "serious injury" as any injury that continued 30 days after the date of accident. Given that very strong and precise recommendation, why does the bill not guarantee statutory rights to rehabilitation for injured workers?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the item the member for Sudbury East raised will probably be one of the things that will be raised as the debate on second reading of Bill 162 takes place, and indeed as the bill goes before the committee. I want to try to answer her in fairly specific terms, though, now that she has raised the matter in the context of a question.

I believe the provisions in Bill 162 dealing with vocational rehabilitation get very close to the major theme in the Majesky-Minna report, which was early intervention so that vocational rehabilitation can be there for the workers who need it. I tell my friend the member for Sudbury East simply this: the fact is there are many serious injuries that have a worker away from the workplace for more than 30 days but do not give rise to the need for vocational rehabilitation.

I will give her, Mr. Speaker, if you do not mind, a simple example of a worker who breaks a leg. Sometimes the break in that leg may take several months to heal, but that particular worker is going to be returning to the worksite and to the employer he was working with before the accident. You would not want to have vocational rehabilitation services there. We have tried, in shaping the bill, to ensure that we direct enhanced resources—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much.

Miss Martel: Not only are vocational rehabilitation services not guaranteed to injured workers who suffer a serious injury, but for the first time ever, the bill puts time limits on the length of time rehabilitation services can be offered. For example, for the first time ever, an injured worker who is seeking employment can have assistance from the board for a period of only up to six months and the board may, at its own discretion, provide another six months of assistance.

Another example is that benefits or rehabilitation services can be offered to workers on benefits only under section 40. Section 40 benefits will last for only 18 months. The consequence, of course, of that is that rehabilitation services will be guaranteed for only up to 18 months. How can the minister claim his bill provides for better rehabilitation services when for the first time ever, we have time limits and for

the first time ever as well, rehabilitation services are not guaranteed to workers who have a serious injury?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Sudbury East, if I recall what she said, said rehabilitation services are guaranteed for only 18 months and rehabilitation services are not guaranteed in the bill. If she looks at the bill, the fact is that it provides that the board must and is under a statutory obligation to contact every single worker who is away from work for 45 days and advise him of the availability of vocational rehabilitation services.

Miss Martel: They don't have to offer it. It's at their discretion.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If the member for Sudbury East will stop screaming and shouting for a second, I will explain the other provision in the bill. For any worker who is off work for six months, away from work as a result of an accident for six months, the board is required, under the statute, to provide a thorough vocational rehabilitation assessment in conjunction with the employer and the worker's doctor to determine how rehabilitation services can help that worker get back to work.

I think that early intervention is going to change the direction of the workers' compensation system in this province. I look forward to the debate that is going to go on here and in committee, and to the passage of the bill and getting on with the business of helping injured workers.

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FINANCIAL TRUST

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. In December 1987, the Ministry of Financial Institutions recommended that \$30 million be injected into Financial Trust before it could be given a clean bill of health. That occurred. Now, less than a year later, in order for Financial Trust to be sold, \$84 million, including a \$10-million loan guarantee from this government, is needed to rescue the sale. Will the minister tell us what happened in the last 10 months to require the \$84 million in aid?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The event that occurred was that there was a transaction between Central Capital and Financial in the Financial Trustco group of companies. That was the event that arose. From my point of view, the \$10-million guarantee was put in place to ensure the sale would go through.

Mr. Runciman: Since when does the government play a role in ensuring that sales like this go through? The minister clearly does not want to deal with this issue. This is the second day he has tried to blur the matter. He simply does not have a handle on it. Either that or he is covering up.

Financial Trust is a subsidiary of the Financial Trustco Capital empire, the owner of which is Gerry Pencer. Mr. Pencer has a chequered past in the financial industry, including his association with an individual described recently in the *Financial Post* as "organized crime's money-mover in Montreal in the 1970s." You would think these past activities of Mr. Pencer would cause the loan and trust corporations branch to monitor the gentleman's companies more closely. Clearly, despite last year's assessment by the ministry, this did not happen.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Runciman: Will the minister commit himself to having a review of the assessment of 10 months ago and table the results in this House?

Hon. Mr. Elston: There is no coverup. That gentleman opposite is absolutely outrageous in the way he tries to characterize this. He asked me the other day if there was a failure in regulation. In fact, there was no failure in regulation. That was a very direct response to his question. The insinuation he is making is really way off the mark. My friend is so out of it that he is sort of out there fishing away.

Let me tell him that these people who were around when Mr. Pencer came into the trust business in 1981 did not seem to think it important at that time that they do anything in particular about it. What we did was go through and, in a very reasonable fashion, look at the manner in which this trust company's assets were in place. What we heard from the Canada Deposit Insurance Corp. was that Financial Trustco was solvent and was a good company at the time the transaction was started in September 1988. That came from CDIC which is, of course, as the member knows, a federal organization.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that our regulatory system did do what it was supposed to do and kept tabs on this company along with all the other companies we are charged to monitor. That is what happened. His allegation that there is a coverup is absolutely one of the most outlandish types of charges he has made, and he is a master of that incredible task.

HERITAGE LANGUAGES

Mr. Faubert: My question is to the Minister of Education regarding his recent heritage

languages announcement, for which I congratulate him, and indeed, his cabinet colleague, the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips).

It has been brought to my attention that some Scarborough school trustees have been expressing their concern over the cost of funding heritage languages programs to their boards and to their local ratepayers. This has caused some confusion among my constituents in Scarborough-Ellesmere, who have been calling me on the subject. In order to alleviate their concern, can the minister advise this House how the heritage languages program is actually funded?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to reiterate to the member that indeed I believe our heritage languages announcement further underlines our fundamental commitment to multiculturalism in this province. I was delighted to make an announcement, on behalf of the government, that further extended a program that has been in place now for many years in this province.

Even prior to last Saturday's announcement, my ministry was contributing something like 70 per cent towards the cost of the delivery of heritage languages programs in Metro, but as I have indicated previously, the program we put in place goes even further. For the first time, it provides funds and resources to school boards throughout this province so that they can develop made-in-Ontario learning materials that will assist boards in developing programs and provide funds for in-service training for teachers. In terms of the direct costs of the delivery of these programs, on the basis of the model we have put forward, it is designed to cover 100 per cent of the instructional cost of the delivery of those programs.

Mr. Faubert: Since the announcement has been made, I have heard statements that this heritage languages announcement was not pleasing to heritage languages advocacy groups, yet I have seen nothing but endorsements in the newspapers and from community leaders like Luke Tao in Scarborough. He is chairman of the Scarborough Coalition for Heritage Languages. Indeed, I sat with him as co-chairman of the race and community relations committee in Scarborough. He stated he was delighted that the official request has now been granted. Perhaps the minister could advise the House of the responses he has received to his initiative.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I guess I can only characterize the response of various organizations and associations around this province as one of overwhelming support. To date, we have re-

ceived communications from many groups, including B'nai Brith, the Federation of Chinese Canadians of Scarborough, the Italian-Canadian Centre for Culture and Education, the Pan-Arcadian Federation of Canada, the Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples; the list goes on and on.

I think it is fair to say that our program recognizes that we intend to deliver these kinds of programs in partnership with these many organizations that have a tremendous interest in these particular matters. Indeed, it has been well received.

ADVOCACY

Mr. Reville: My question is for the Attorney General. For a long time, mentally incapable people in institutions and in the community have been vulnerable to infringement of their rights. They require a fair, impartial and inexpensive process for determining their capacity. That process must respect their rights and provide clear authority to health professionals and others to provide necessary services. The ministry has been studying this problem now, I think, for about four years. When do we see the results?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Very shortly.

Mr. Reville: The answer was, "Very shortly." The next question is related to the fact that the delay means that other things are delayed. Last year, we received the O'Sullivan report, called *You've Got a Friend*. Also last year, we received the Manson report, called *Advocacy in Psychiatric Hospitals*. Both make significant recommendations. Both of those sets of recommendations are waiting on the report the minister has carriage of, that is, the Fram report.

I wonder if the Attorney General would indicate a little more specifically when we can expect the Fram report to be tabled, when we can expect the legislation that would flow from the Fram report to be tabled and when the resources and mechanisms will be in place to implement all these very important recommendations.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The member is quite right. The Fram report is the third of a series of three reports, all of which relate to the same complex of difficult problems. As I indicated to the honourable member, the third part of the exercise, the Fram report, which is in a sense the most complex and detailed, will be available very shortly. I cannot predict when the legislation will follow and I would not want to, because I look forward to having the submissions that my friend and his colleagues will want to make on all

three reports before the government decides how to respond to this very important issue.

1450

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr. McLean: Thank you. My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Section 179(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada indicates that it is unlawful to bet on a single sport event or athletic contest. Yet the Grey Cup Millions lottery Grey Cup point spread is based on this very thing, on the outcome of the November 27 Grey Cup game. Is the minister not aware of this illegality and, if he is, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I thank the member for his question, but I can assure him that any time before the Ontario Lottery Corp. introduces any new game, it obtains legal opinion as to whether that game conforms with the law. I can tell him that a legal opinion was rendered by the Toronto law firm of Cassels, Brock and Blackwell, which acts for the Ontario Lottery Corp., and that was that that game was not illegal.

Mr. McLean: The minister is well aware that Walter Strothers, chairman of the corporation, let half the tickets out and kept the other half. He did not put out all the 400,000 that were supposed to be for sale. Recently Ontario Lottery Corp. lost some \$8 million in revenues when it was forced to withdraw more than 12 million Money Match and Double Dollar tickets. Will the minister tell the House how much Ontario Lottery Corp. expects to lose in revenues this time around?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I can tell the member that the security of the tickets is continually under review. If we find that that security has been broken, then those tickets will be withdrawn. I can also tell him that the instant tickets are tickets that provide a great amount of revenue to the Ontario Lottery Corp. We will continue to sell those tickets, but if we find that the security has been broken, we will remove the tickets from the market.

MENTAL COMPETENCE

Mr. Callahan: My question is for the Minister of Health. I have had considerable discussions with psychiatrists and with groups such as the Friends of Schizophrenics in my riding. They have indicated to me that there is concern about the definition of competence within the Mental Health Act, particularly with reference to schizophrenics.

With paranoid schizophrenics, the very nature of their illness makes them paranoid about anything that is given to them. As a result of that, they fail to take their medicine. If they are competent, they can therefore refuse their medicine and can become in fact violent, do injury to others and to themselves. What is the Ministry of Health doing about this very serious glitch in the Mental Health Act?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the member both for his question and for his concern. I am aware of the issue that he has brought to my attention. I think many members in the House have also received representation. This issue raises what I think most of us consider to be a very sensitive and delicate balance between the right of the patient to make his own decisions about his treatment and the desire of society to help by treating that person who may be deemed incapable of making his own decision.

Central to this issue is the whole notion of mental competency and a decision of mental competency. At the present time that decision is determined by a psychiatrist in a psychiatric institution and his decision is appealable to a review board. Those whose competency has been determined, in other words if they have been determined competent, may refuse treatment. This is where this issue then arises.

Because of the concern of so many people on this very issue and because it is one of really balancing competing interests, I asked Dr. David Weisstub to address this issue from the viewpoint of attempting to recommend standards for determining competency before we move forward on what I believe is a very difficult and compelling issue within our society.

Mr. Callahan: The issue is of such significant concern. I have seen families who are terribly troubled by the fact that a loved one who can be made well or at least kept on a regular basis by medication will not take it, and they have absolutely no way of looking after that loved one. I have personal information of a constituent of mine who attempted to kill himself on two occasions. Fortunately, he was unsuccessful.

He is presently confined in a prison setting for having effected an assault on a rather notable person around Christmastime. I am told by the prison authorities that because of his illness, he continues to refuse treatment. Because of this concern, I had spoken with legislative counsel with a view to introducing a private member's bill into the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Callahan: I would like to find out when this report the minister has spoken of will be available, perhaps with reference to reading that report to consider whether a private bill is required or whether a government bill will be introduced in this regard.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I agree with the member that this is an extremely important issue and my heart goes out to those families and patients who are struggling with both sides of this very important question.

I asked Dr. Weisstub to report back as soon as he was ready. In fact, I am hoping to have his recommendations by next summer at the latest, so that we will have an opportunity. He has told me as well that this is an issue that is felt about very strongly and that evokes very strong emotions as well as intellectual arguments on both sides of the issue.

I recommend to the member, and to others in this House if they have an opinion, to make sure Dr. Weisstub is aware of that opinion. As well, I recommend that the member not proceed with legislation until he sees the issue as defined by Dr. Weisstub and we have an opportunity to have that debate and discussion in this House or in forums following Dr. Weisstub's report.

CONTRACTING OF MINISTRY SERVICES

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Can the minister explain why he and his ministry are ducking the issue of contracting out and privatization that he says he is in favour of and supports, in that he is refusing to attend the forum which has been organized by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union to deal with the issue this Saturday in Blind River? If the minister is otherwise engaged, why will he not appoint a representative from his ministry to appear on his behalf to explain why the ministry is not explaining to contractors that successor rights apply when they are hiring workers, since the minister says he wants them to hire local workers?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I certainly do not hesitate to discuss this party's policy regarding opportunities for people in northern Ontario to become involved with my ministry.

I do not agree with this particular member standing up here and saying that I should accept their policies as we attest to the fact that the Ministry of Natural Resources has a role with OPSEU. I think the OPSEU people would agree with me when I say their opportunities and working conditions in this province are as good

as anywhere in the country, but there is an opportunity for small entrepreneurs to become involved in contracting, so that I can stretch my dollars to keep my parks opened, to plant my trees and do those things.

The member would close that opportunity down to those people and that is just not the way this government functions. We think there is room for everyone, even though he does not.

Mr. Wildman: With respect, the minister did not answer the question. The question was, will the minister attend, and if he cannot attend the forum that is being organized by OPSEU to discuss this issue and to put forward the position he has just put forward, will he appoint a representative, either his parliamentary assistant or a civil servant from his ministry who will attend to explain his position? Will he attend or will he appoint someone else to attend to explain his position?

1500

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yesterday, when the same member put the question to me, I said that what he said was patently untrue. I learned my lesson. I will not again say that this member says things that are patently untrue. The fact of the matter is that he has to get the whole process clear in his mind. I suggest to him that there was never a request for someone—

Mr. Wildman: That is not true. You were invited.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member should wait until he hears what I am going to say. How can he respond before I tell him what I am going to say?

I am suggesting to the member that there was no request to send a substitute in my place; and I am going to suggest to him that I am willing to co-operate with him. As unreasonable as he is, I will send someone to represent me.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Do members wish to hear the member? Order.

ELECTRICITY DEMAND AND SUPPLY

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question to the Minister of Energy.

Interjections.

Mr. Cureatz: Well, I want to say to these Liberals over here, they are not even backbenchers any more, they are just a rump.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Cureatz: As the Minister of Energy is well aware, Ontario Hydro had requested residents of Ontario to reduce the consumption of

electricity during the summer. Is he and his ministry prepared, and what are they going to do, to ensure that Ontario Hydro will be able to meet the consumption requirements of Ontario residents? We cannot afford to have a lack of electricity in the winter as we can during the summertime.

Hon. Mr. Wong: I will give a very brief answer. First of all, the government has a conservation-first strategy on the demand management side, and on the supply side we are going through the review of the demand/supply planning strategy right now.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the following substitutions be made: on the standing committee on administration of justice, Mr. Runciman for Mr. Cureatz; on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, Mr. Pope for Mr. Villeneuve; on the the standing committee on general government, Mr. Cureatz for Mrs. Marland; on the standing committee on government agencies, Mrs. Marland for Mr. Jackson; on the standing committee on the Ombudsman, Mr. Cousens for Mr. McLean; on the standing committee on public accounts, Mr. Cousens for Mr. Pope and Mr. Villeneuve for Mr. Runciman; and on the standing committee on social development, Mrs. Cunningham for Mr. Cousens.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for the appointment of Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the remainder of this session.

Mr. Sterling: Today we are resuming the debate with regard to the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the remainder of this session.

Perhaps I would just explain, for purposes of the debate, that the Deputy Chairman is one of the three table officers who are responsible to the Legislative Assembly and really run this place here at Queen's Park. The people who are listening to this debate might be wondering and saying to themselves, "What are the opposition parties so concerned about in the appointment of one of the government officers?"

I think it is an important distinction to put forward at the opening of today's debate that we

are not appointing a government official; we are appointing an official of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Therefore, the procedure the government uses with regard to the appointment of people to boards, commissions or advisory boards to the government should be very much different from the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House.

Unfortunately, what we have witnessed in this Legislature is a government that has acted as though the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House is nothing more than another government appointment. That is what this whole debate revolves around.

I should say also to people who are listening in on the debate that this is not a matter that has brought our Legislature to debate this particular issue for two days on its own. I would characterize this particular crisis, if we want to call it that, as a culmination of a number of moves by this government over a period of time. I would characterize this as the straw that broke the camel's back with regard to the arrogance of the present government.

I have had the privilege, over a significant part of my 11 years sitting as the member of the provincial Legislature for the riding of Carleton, to sit on a committee called the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly. That committee deals with procedural matters before the House and with a number of matters that deal with how this place runs, how members react with regard to the Legislature. It has also dealt with a number of issues as to how open this government will be to suggestions.

Even though I am a member of the third party, the Progressive Conservative Party, I must say that when the government changed in June 1985, I had hopes that this place would reform itself in some significant way. I say that genuinely, even though this is a somewhat political debate that we are having today. I thought that when the Premier (Mr. Peterson) talked about open government, when he talked about reform, he really meant what he said.

There are three matters that we have dealt with in the Legislative Assembly committee which, if they had been embraced by the Liberal government of the day, would have done not only this parliament but future parliaments immeasurable good. We have done three major reports in the Legislative Assembly committee of this Legislature, and I am proud to have been part of them.

The one that is most relevant to this debate is the report by the standing committee on procedural affairs, as the Legislative Assembly com-

mittee was then known, on changing our standing orders. I want to note for the members that this report came out in November 1985. That was about six months after the Liberal government came into power. Since that date, that report has been sitting on the shelf collecting dust.

We had what I thought was a commitment, in the very early days of this government, to make significant reforms, to make this place a more relevant place to be for a good part of our lives and to get on with the business with regard to the people of Ontario.

There were significant changes, and one of the changes in this particular report dealt with the very problem that we are discussing today, that is, who should be the Speaker, who should be the Deputy Speaker—who is in the chair now—and who should be the Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House, which is the subject of the motion we are dealing with. According to this report of November 1985, that should be done by election.

1510

After this particular report was produced in November 1985, the parties talked it over with each other. They went to their caucuses. They talked about what change of rules should be done here, what should be there and that kind of thing.

Mr. Haggerty: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: On such an important debate as this, I am sure the member would like to have all members in the House. I see only one Conservative. Is there a quorum?

The Deputy Speaker: Is there a quorum?

Clerk Assistant: A quorum is present.

The Deputy Speaker: The member may proceed.

Mr. Sterling: I want to thank the member for just reaffirming to all of our listeners out there that this particular party wants to get on with the business of the House. We have only 17 members, but during question period, as the member knows, there were many pressing issues raised with regard to the legitimacy of this government. The press wants to talk to many of our members about those allegations.

Mr. Speaker, in this report there is a recommendation that your very job should be achieved only through election within this legislative chamber. They do it in the House of Commons now, as you know. If you talk to any members of the House of Commons, they think it is a legitimate procedure. In fact, it is perhaps one of the most solidifying things in terms of making the

House of Commons work because every member of the House of Commons has an opportunity to have his say on who is going to be sitting in that seat which controls this chamber.

Since 1985 this has sat on the shelf. About a year ago, the government came to myself, the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) and the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft), and said, "Why don't you three gentlemen get together and try to formulate a deal out of these particular orders?" We came to a deal almost a year ago. Our report has sat on the table of the government for almost a year.

What we would like is a resolution of the matter. There are a lot of things done around here that do not achieve any results and are not in the best interests of the people of Ontario. Therefore, we need changes to our standing orders. But if the government, which controls 94 of 130 seats, will not put forward its position and negotiate, we can hardly have a change.

If anybody thinks the rules around here are archaic and wrong, then the blame can fall only on the shoulders of the sitting government because it failed to put forward a position as to what rules it wants changed. They will not come to the table and negotiate.

The other two matters which we have dealt with in the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly deal with the arrogance of this government relating to other appointments of the government. The Legislative Assembly committee, which is made up of members of all parties, came to the conclusion that the existing process is not satisfactory.

When a government, this government in particular, appoints an individual to an advisory board or to a position, that individual should be subject to an examination by a committee of the Legislature. Again, the federal government has done it. They are light years ahead of us on this particular matter. They have done something about appointments.

Meanwhile, we have a government that continues to appoint its own kin and its own people to boards and is afraid to put them in front of a legislative committee in order for a legislative committee to determine whether these are competent people who are being given jobs, many of them nonpaying, but a lot of them are paying jobs. Therefore, they deny the public, through the opposition parties and through other members of the Legislature who sit on committees, the right to cross-examine people who are being appointed to very important and powerful positions.

That is number two. They have not changed the rules. They have been sitting on the shelf for about three years. Our report on appointments has been sitting on the shelf for three or four years.

The third matter the Legislative Assembly committee dealt with was the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. During the hearings that went through in the minority government, we were able to change a number of the sections of that particular act. About two and a half years after its introduction, it finally went through at the urging of the opposition parties.

Notwithstanding the freedom of information act coming into force in January of this year, I have used that particular legislative act on a number of occasions to try to get information from this government. Do members know what the response has been? The first response I got back from them was that they wanted to charge me \$700 for information which they would previously give to me, as a member of this Legislature, free of charge. That is what they call freedom of information, that is what they call open government; that is what we, on our side, call arrogant government.

The second foray into the freedom of information act has been an effort, on my part and the part of many of my colleagues, to get polls which are paid for by the public to be tabled in this Legislature. It was only last week that I received a poll I had requested in the middle of July, a poll that was taken in January 1988 on free trade. This government was frightened to give me that poll because of the political nature of those questions contained in that poll. Members will see, if they read that particular poll, that it is a highly political poll and should never have been paid for by the public of Ontario.

Not only that, but I was informed by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) that he did not give me the whole poll, that he had taken out parts of that poll which were of a political nature and had been paid for by the Liberal Party of Ontario, or at least we assume that at this stage. We have a government that professes to be open in terms of giving information, when it stalls, charges for information and then ferrets through the information and decides which part it wants to give out and which it does not.

I am sorry I am now coming to the conclusion that after three years of a continued exhibition of a closed government, a government that does not want to listen to the opposition, a government

that is now taking steps in the appointment of the Deputy Chairman in a most arrogant and high-handed manner, we have a government that has slipped back to the ways of the old. I think the ways of the old were wrong. That is why I held out some hope that when government changes there should be some change in the rules as to how this place runs. The government should become more open and decisions should be based on fact and not on emotion.

We will support the amendment of the members of the New Democratic Party. I only want to say, with regard to our party, that it has no reflection on the person who has been nominated for this post, the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray). We have no axe to grind with the member for Windsor-Walkerville should he be confirmed as the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House, but we do support very strongly the objection with regard to the appointment by this method. We think it is time to get on with changing the rules so that all members of this House can participate in the appointment of the Deputy Chairman, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

1520

Mr. Laughren: I would not normally engage in a debate on a motion such as this, but I really do feel it necessary to engage in it.

If the people out there in television land, as we are wont to say, have watched this debate now for the third day, they must wonder what in the world we are doing with our time down here. They thought they sent us down to pass legislation and make improvements to existing legislation.

I must say that I agree with those people totally. We all know there are important pieces of legislation that must be dealt with. There is the workers' compensation legislation; there is the Sunday shopping legislation; there are the tax bills that are still carried over from the budget last spring. It is not because there is nothing important to do that we are engaging in this rather strange, rather bizarre debate for the third day now.

The government members, of course, including the House leader and the whip, claim it is simple obstruction; nothing more, nothing less. I can see some members nodding their heads. But I ask the members to think about it for a moment and ask themselves whether or not it would make any sense at all for an opposition such as us and such as the Conservative caucus to obstruct without any purpose. It would be like picketing with blank placards. It would make no sense

whatsoever. I think people out there watching the debate from time to time must understand that there is a reason for this debate and a reason it is being carried on so long. There is a reason.

The reaction yesterday of the two government members who spoke on this motion, the House leader and the government whip, two people who have a lot to do with how this place runs, revealed a lot about why we have a problem.

I remind members that what we are debating is a motion that would install the member for Windsor-Walkerville in the Deputy Chairman of committees position, replacing the member for Elgin (Miss Roberts). That was the motion. I know I am a bit of a rookie, having been here only 17 years, but it is the first time I recall a debate on one of the House positions. If it has occurred before, then my memory is suspect.

But I should say that this event of a prolonged debate on that government motion is not an isolated event. While the debate itself is centred on that, there was a great deal that led up to this event. What we are doing has much less to do with political parties than with the political process around this place.

I would like to back up a week or so to when we were all moving towards debate on what is known as Bill 162, amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. Prior to that, the critic for this caucus had a meeting with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and at that meeting the Minister of Labour indicated he had no intention of having public hearings and the bill would be dealt with before Christmas.

That was very clear. That is not something that was left in a kind of grey area. It was said very specifically, very clearly and very firmly, and that is what was going to happen. When our critic the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) reported that back to our caucus, we felt it appropriate to raise it in question period.

When we raised that matter in question period and asked him for public hearings and travel across the province when the House adjourns for the winter break, we did not receive an assurance that would happen. We received some vague assurances, "Oh, yes, well, the minister wouldn't object," and so forth. Then, in an act that totally insulted the members of the opposition, government ministers stated, "We don't tell the committee what to do."

That really was an insult to members of the opposition, because we all know that when the government ministers determine that they want a certain course of action to be taken or not taken, word is passed on to the members of the

committee and, because of the majority of government members on the committee, that, of course, is what happens.

I could dredge up examples from the standing committee on resources development if the members felt it was necessary.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They had to adjourn the resources committee to get instructions on the bill of the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier).

Mr. Laughren: As a matter of fact, the day we had the demonstration out in front and the day the injured workers came very close to the door, it was because of the refusal of the government ministers to give assurances that there would be public hearings in the break. That was the reason that happened. There is no question about that, absolutely no question.

Then the House leader indicated that we could travel while the House was sitting—the second insult to members of the opposition. How do members of an opposition of 18 members and 17 members travel when the House is in session? It simply does not make any sense.

If the government whip and House leader want to take the line that that is the way to do things, then they are sure behaving in a strange way if they are serious about getting any work done around this place. It really does not make any sense whatsoever, and I notice the Speaker nodding.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Nodding off.

Mr. Laughren: I had finished the sentence. I did not drop the word "off"—I just said you were nodding, Mr. Speaker.

Those kinds of answers to the opposition that insulted us left us with a feeling of great mistrust and anger and frustration.

I know that as we go through this debate, for people who are not involved in the workings of the chamber it probably does not make a lot of sense, but I would simply say that having this place work fairly with a large majority in government is important to people out there all across Ontario as well, because I do not believe anybody is well served if a majority government does not respect the requirements or the needs of the opposition.

If you stop and think about it and add up the percentages of the vote the government party got versus the two opposition parties, you will know that if you do not treat the opposition party properly, you are indeed offending about half of the population of Ontario. Their rights are not being protected any more than ours are, who represent those people all across the province.

When positions are filled, such as the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the committees of the whole House and the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House, when those decisions are made, they should be made very carefully, because those people then become the servants of the House, not of the governing party. There is no question about that. I think everyone should understand—everyone out there, not just in here—that it is an important principle that those people, such as the Deputy Chairman, dealing with the resolution we are dealing with today, are in important positions.

I cannot imagine sitting in that chair trying to regulate the business of the House through complex amendments to amendments of bills when two of the three parties in this place do not want that person to be there because of the process, not because of the person. My House leader made it very clear that there was no objection to the member for Windsor-Walkerville's sitting in that chair as Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House, any more than there was any objection to the member for Elgin, although we must say the member for Elgin did a superb job in that position and, in all fairness, we probably would not have moved her.

I think it is important to know that the position we are talking about is one that is important to the working of this place, and I worry about the new Deputy Chairman coming in, if the government proceeds, not having the support of two of the three parties in this place. That would be truly unusual and unfortunate.

Despite the assurances that this was not contrived by the Premier as simply a shifting around of caucus positions, still it was all part of that package when parliamentary assistants were changed and dropped or added, it all happened at the same time; well it certainly did, because those of us on this side were told about it at exactly the same time—

1530

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Some of your members told us.

Mr. Laughren: That is right. These are the moves that are being made. The government House leader can pretend all he likes, but that was, I think, a gross oversight. In a gross oversight, the House leader, the whip and the Premier forgot that the Deputy Chairman's position is one of servant to the House, not of the government caucus. That is what was forgotten in that process. I am absolutely convinced it was.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Not true. You're saying we shouldn't elect our chairman.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It has nothing to do with your chairman.

Mr. Laughren: It has nothing to do with that. I am not talking about the chairman of the caucus, and the government House leader knows that. We are talking about the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole. That is what we are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am talking about what you think we did.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: As a matter of fact, though, it is clear there should be consultation with the other parties; if it is going to work properly there must be consultation. Obviously, the government House leader got away with what he did, up to a point. I suppose, with the numbers, he can ram it through. I was sitting here this Monday past, and five minutes before question period ended, the government House leader walked over and handed my House leader the copy of the motion that was going to put the member for Windsor-Walkerville in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Were you at the House leaders' meeting on Thursday?

Mr. Laughren: I was here.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. One member at a time, please. The member will ignore the interjections and address his remarks through the Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: We believe that lack of consultation is not appropriate. That is why the bells began to ring. It is very clearly a case of protecting the rights of minorities in this place. That is what it is all about, a case of respecting the rights of the minority parties.

Once the bells started to ring, we had intended to vote yesterday afternoon. It was our intention to have the vote yesterday afternoon, not today, but then something truly unusual happened. Our House leader spoke, followed by the Conservative caucus House leader, and then the government House leader spoke.

It was a truly virtuoso performance. Unfortunately, it was to the wrong audience. That speech should have been made to the Windsor Liberal association. That speech should not have been made in this chamber. I am sure the Liberals in Windsor would have found that a highly entertaining speech, although I bet they would have winced at some of the things the House leader said.

This is absolutely accurate. I am quoting from Hansard of yesterday afternoon. This is the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), the government House leader, "The thing that troubles me most about the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) is that he recites things that I think bespeak a malady that may be more serious than paranoia."

The government House leader may think that is humorous, but I do not think it is, because if you think about what that says, it is accusing or at least charging that our House leader does not have all his faculties available to him.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Absolutely not.

Mr. Laughren: That is exactly what it means.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have been accused of far worse things here.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. One member at a time. The member for Nickel Belt has the floor.

Mr. Laughren: That is just one sentence. That was a highly vitriolic, highly personal attack on my House leader. It was surprisingly personal and unfortunately personal, I might say.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You're being precious and you know it.

Mr. Laughren: No, I am not being precious. I want to tell members that when the government House leader was appointed to his position by the Premier back in 1987, about a year ago, the media in Sudbury came to me and said, "What do you think about the appointment of Mr. Conway as government House leader and Minister of Mines?"

I said—as a matter of fact, some of my friends in Sudbury wondered why I was being so kind—that I thought it was a good choice, if not inspired, and that it was an indication the Premier was worried about the way a massive majority, given legitimately by the people of Ontario to his government, would treat the two opposition parties in the Legislature.

I said for that reason that I thought it was a good choice, because I do not know of anyone who appreciates more the political history of this province and of this chamber than the member for Renfrew North. I do feel, however, that this appreciation and this capacity to appreciate the political history of our province and of this place is being frittered away with the kind of performance we saw yesterday afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Do you want me to take everything and give nothing?

Mr. Laughren: No, that is absolutely not the issue at all.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to tell you there are tapes around here—things that have been said about me.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. One member at a time.

Mr. Laughren: I said earlier that the speech the government House leader gave should have been given to a partisan riding association such as the Windsor area Liberals. That would have been an appropriate forum. This was an inappropriate forum. I will say something else. The speech the government House leader should have given was given by our member for Oshawa. That is the speech the government House leader should have given, not the one he gave. I would be very surprised if the government House leader has not had some second thoughts since he spoke yesterday afternoon.

It should be clear that the opposition we have now in Ontario faces four years of losing every vote in this chamber. We face four years of the government having its way on almost every issue. We have some tools available to us in order to make this place function, in order to make sure that there are checks on the power of such a massive majority.

One of those tools is our right to ensure that issues, bills and so forth get referred out to committees. We also can engage in the odd filibuster, engage in the odd bell-ringing and have emergency debates. Those are all legitimate tools in our system. They are there for the opposition to use. It is not an accident that the opposition is referred to as Her Majesty's loyal opposition. That is our role. It is an honourable one at that. For the government not to appreciate that speaks volumes about its attitude.

I am not a House leader or a whip, so I do not attend the meetings with the House leaders, but I get the feeling that one of the problems with the government is that it does not build into its legislative timetable those things I just mentioned: bell-ringing, emergency debates and filibusters. For a government not to build those in, given its huge majority, does not make any sense. Therefore, they become frustrated when things go off the rails according to the timetable they have set for themselves.

There is another problem. I think it is just as fundamental when dealing with a substantial majority. That is what happens to the negotiations process. When there was a minority government between 1985 and 1987, negotiations were just automatic. They had to occur or

nothing happened. The negotiations went on for almost two years.

A good example is the referring out of the hearings on the Workers' Compensation Board. I will go back to that because I think that started this problem and caused a great deal of anger and frustration on this side of the House. The government should have known that there was a long tradition of referring out compensation bills to committee for public hearings and travel across the province. There is a very long tradition of that. Besides, it is going to happen now. Think of all that could have been avoided if they had agreed to do it in the first place.

1540

Mr. Reyecraft: Who said it wouldn't?

Mr. Laughren: Well, the Minister of Labour said it would not be done.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: As long as the government whip persists in the argument that there was no problem, then obviously he is not going to understand the problem, and that seems to be his problem.

If the House leader and the whip continue, then the distemper of these times will continue. If they do not change their views and attitudes, we are in for a long session. I know that may very well be appropriate, but I am telling members that people are going to start asking: "What's going on down there at Queen's Park? Didn't we elect a huge majority government? Why don't they get on with the business of running Ontario?" Some people, of course, will blame the opposition, and that is fair, but in the final analysis, it is up to the government to make this place work, and it can work.

We have dealt with majority governments before. This place has functioned with majority governments. It functioned for four years in a minority government, for heaven's sake, and it has functioned for years with majority governments. There is no reason majority government cannot work, but it is not going to work if we keep things going the way they are now.

If the government House leader continues to make speeches such as he made yesterday, with personal attacks on a House leader he has to negotiate with, day in and day out, week in and week out, the system is not going to work. Now, he should think about that.

My House leader is expected to go in to a meeting of the House leaders tomorrow morning and negotiate with the government House leader who made that kind of speech yesterday after-

noon. I would find that extremely difficult to do. Surely to goodness, given what has gone on around here in the last couple of weeks, yesterday was a time for the government House leader to be building bridges, not lobbing personal grenades over here at our House leader, but that is exactly what the government House leader did.

I know that our House leader is a tough negotiator. I know he is partisan. But Mr. Speaker, can you imagine our House leader, with 18 arrows in his quiver, going up against the government with 94 arrows in its quiver? What kind of a—

Mr. B. Rae: Sentence is that?

Mr. Laughren: I want to start again.

Mr. B. Rae: What kind of metaphor is that?

Mr. Laughren: What I am trying to say, and not saying it very well, is that the odds are not even. We expect our House leader to be partisan; we expect him to be a tough negotiator. He is both and we are happy with that. For the government House leader and the government whip to complain about that is downright silly. It is to not understand the process. It is to not understand the role of our House leader and the role of the opposition.

Mrs. Grier: He is elected, not appointed like theirs.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, we even elect our House leader, and he has cemented his position for ever.

I suggest that the government House leader and his caucus have as much to lose—I think more—than the opposition if some civility is not returned to the process. I think the government leadership should reflect on that, because after yesterday, it is going to be increasingly difficult to carry on negotiations that will lead to the proper management of this chamber.

I suggest it is time for us to move on to legislation and to do the business we were sent down here to do, but I really believe it was fundamentally wrong for the government to have made those heroic assumptions it made on the sending out of the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act and on the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House. Those issues would never have blown up in the face of the government if there had been proper negotiations in both cases, and we would now be well through the workers' compensation legislation.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that these incidents will be avoided in the future only if the

opposition starts to feel like a partner in the business of managing this place.

1603

The House divided on Mr. D. S. Cooke's amendment to Hon. Mr. Conway's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Grier, Hampton, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, Morin-Strom, Pope, Pouliot, Rae, B., Runciman, Sterling, Wildman.

Nays

Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Conway, Daigeler, Dietsch, Epp, Faubert, Fleet, Fontaine, Haggerty, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McGuigan, Miclash, Miller, Nicholas, Phillips, G., Poole, Ramsay, Reyecraft, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wong.

Ayes 21; nays 48.

The Deputy Speaker: Are we ready to vote on the main motion?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if it would be possible to hear from the candidate.

Mr. Reyecraft: Speaking to the point of order, I am sure the candidate would love to oblige. However, apparently he has been called to his apartment building, where there is a fire going on this afternoon.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Since we are not going to have an emergency debate, are we ready for the main vote? Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Conway has moved that the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray) be appointed Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the remainder of this session.

Is it the pleasure of the House that this motion carry? Same vote? Two members have come in, three members. We will have to have a count if some more members come in.

1609

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Conway's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Conway, Daigeler, Dietsch, Epp, Faubert, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Haggerty, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McGuigan, Miclash, Miller, Nicholas, O'Neil, H., Phillips, G., Poole, Ramsay, Reyecraft, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wong.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Grier, Hampton, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, Morin-Strom, Pope, Pouliot, Rae, B., Runciman, Sterling, Wildman.

Ayes 51; nays 21.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Deputy Speaker: If I remember well, the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) had the floor. Is he finished? Any other debate? The member for Halton Centre.

Mrs. Sullivan: I am pleased to take part in this debate, particularly since it provides the first opportunity for me to speak as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour and the minister responsible for women's issues (Mr. Sorbara).

Bill 162 is a reform bill. It provides an opportunity to bring positive change to a system that all of us in this House and many outside recognize is not working well. Whether you come from Milton or Markham, from Windsor or Wawa, from Nipissing or Nepean, you know that this reform is necessary and this reform is timely. This debate, and the conclusions which will come from it, will mark an important point of departure for the workers' compensation system in Ontario. It is both the culmination of the 1980 round of workers' compensation reform and the beginning of new efforts that will take us towards the next century. It meets head-on some of the urgent problems of the workers' compensation system in Ontario, particularly those dealing with permanent partial disability.

I would like to trace some of the steps, beginning in the late 1970s, which led us to this particular bill, a bill which provides certainty for both the injured worker and the employer and further brings a sense of dignity and fairness into the process.

The current round of reform began in 1978, when the Wyatt Co., independent actuarial consultants, conducted a study of the Workers' Compensation Board and examined its financial arrangements and its system of disability compensation. One of the recommendations from that study was for a reorganization of the permanent disability pension scheme which would base compensation payments solely upon workers' monetary losses.

A year later, in 1979, the WCB published a discussion paper called *Current Issues in Workmen's Compensation*. That paper examined the trend to wage loss as a reform model for permanent disability compensation.

In January 1980, the government appointed Professor Paul Weiler to conduct a comprehensive review of workers' compensation in Ontario. The initial report of that review, published in November of that year, made several recommendations for reform, including a proposal for a dual award system for compensating permanent partial disability claims, that is, a lump sum for impairment plus a continuing payment to replace actual lost income.

In 1981 the Minister of Labour published a white paper containing policy proposals and draft statutory language. Once again, a central change advocated was for a dual award method in PPD compensation. Public discussion of the dual award approach to PPD reform continued for two years. It included extensive debate before a standing committee of the Legislature. That committee's report in December 1983 indicated basic agreement with the dual award model. In June 1984, the government proceeded with a package of WCB reforms including new administrative structures and a new survivor benefit system. Implementation of a new PPD system was deferred, however.

I would like to remind members that during the last decade, four provinces—Quebec, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, plus the Yukon territory—have proceeded to implement a dual award system. Manitoba and Alberta have recently published reviews of their workers' compensation systems which also recommend adopting this report.

In early 1985, the government asked Professor Weiler again to review his initial 1980 proposals

for a dual award model of PPD compensation. He reported in December 1986 and his report included some revisions to his earlier recommendations. The report was circulated and comments were solicited from all parties.

Members will recall that in the fall speech from the throne of 1987, the government indicated its intention to proceed with the reform of the permanent partial disability compensation system. The proposed reforms outline a comprehensive dual award and workplace reintegration scheme which is in many respects quite distinct from earlier models. Nevertheless, financial compensation for noneconomic loss and for future loss of earnings remains central to the model.

The purpose of the award for noneconomic loss is to compensate a permanently disabled worker for injury-related losses that may not be reflected in his or her post-injury earning capacity. The noneconomic losses suffered would include physical impairment, physical and psychological distress, loss of capacity for leisure activities, loss of companionship and loss of enjoyment of life.

To assess these intangible results of permanent disability, the WCB will determine the extent of the predictable noneconomic loss that an average injured worker may experience, based on the degree of his or her physical impairment. The amount of the award will be modified according to the injured worker's age at the time of the injury and the severity of the impairment arising from it. The maximum award provided for a noneconomic loss in 1988 would be \$65,000. The minimum award would be \$25,000 for full disability.

As the minister mentioned in his opening remarks in this debate, the proposed maximum benefit exceeds noneconomic-loss compensation available in any other provincial system that has adopted the dual award approach. An age adjustment will be applied to the award by adding \$1,000 to the minimum amount of \$25,000 for every year of age that the worker is younger than 65.

The principle of age-adjusting compensation for a loss experienced over time has been long accepted in the courts as well as having been applied in the workers' compensation system. Age adjustment is also implicit in the existing disability pension program. Younger workers receive greater total benefits than older workers because the term of pension payments to them will be longer.

Awards for noneconomic loss will customarily be paid as lump sums to enable workers to determine their own personal financial choices and adjustments to their disabilities. Nevertheless, a worker who is entitled to an award of \$10,000 or more may elect to receive it as a periodic pension payment.

1620

I want to talk about how the noneconomic-loss benefits are determined and the appeal process associated with these decisions. Initial entitlement decisions about awards for noneconomic loss will be made by medical practitioners and an appeal process relating to these medical decisions is implicit in the bill. The decisions will be subject to internal review and to scrutiny by an independent medical referee upon request by either the injured worker or the employer. The choice of the referee must be acceptable to both parties. The referee's reassessment for the worker's degree of permanent impairment, a medical assessment, is binding upon the parties and that may not be appealed to the external Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal for the simple reason that it is a medical assessment. However, a worker may seek reassessment of the award for noneconomic loss, if a significant and unforeseen deterioration occurs in his or her physical condition. Opportunities for this type of reassessment are included in the bill.

I would like to describe benefits for economic loss available to permanently disabled workers under this legislation. Permanently disabled workers, those who receive 12 continuous months of temporary compensation, will be assessed for compensation for future loss of earnings. The projected earnings loss method will be used to calculate how much the worker is capable of earning in suitable and available post-injury employment. Benefits for future loss of earnings will be 90 per cent of the difference between a worker's actual pre-injury net earnings and his or her projected post-injury earning capacity.

Statutory criteria used by the Workers' Compensation Board to project the injured worker's post-injury earning capacity include, first, the actual post-injury net earnings; second, disability benefits received from the Canada pension plan or the Quebec pension plan; the personal and vocational attributes of the worker; the future vocational and medical rehabilitation prospect, and the availability of suitable employment for the injured person. After the board has assessed the worker's future earning capacity and calculated a projected earnings-loss benefit, the

benefit is fixed at the assessed level for two years. This enhances the worker's incentive to reach his or her maximum post-injury earning potential, since benefits will be paid for the initial two-year period without reduction for any increase in actual post-injury income.

As is currently the case, additional payments will also be available for workers enrolled in rehabilitation programs to supplement the future loss-of-earnings benefit they receive. Total compensation, including the rehabilitation supplement and the loss-of-earnings benefit, would be 90 per cent of the worker's pre-injury net earnings during this period.

Basic benefits for future loss of earnings apply to older workers 55 or older, who are unemployed and unlikely to obtain future employment. Payments to them must equal federal old age security benefits or approximately \$300 per month. At a minimum, this benefit is payable until the worker reaches age 65.

The level of earnings loss compensation is reappraised twice during the life of the claim. First, two years after the benefit is established and second, three years after the first review of the benefits. A review of the benefits for future loss of earnings is also triggered within two years, where the injured worker has requested an assessment because his physical impairment has increased. In that case, a worker may petition the board to reevaluate physical impairment where a significant and unanticipated deterioration has occurred. Where an increased level of impairment is found, the bill provides that entitlement for earnings loss compensation will also be reassessed.

These reviews of a worker's continuing entitlement to benefits for future losses of earnings permit the board to compare its forecast of a claimant's post-injury earning capacity with the worker's actual labour market experience. The reviews can therefore allow for more accurate compensation for worker's actual economic losses and either the current permanent partial disability pensions' scheme or simple projected wage loss system. Between the required reviews, the injured worker can be certain of the benefits he or she will receive, and in each review, inadequacies or excesses in benefit payments will be subject to adjustment.

As the minister pointed out, board decisions on wage loss payments will be subject to the same appeal process, including appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal, as currently apply to board decisions and awards.

Compensation for future loss of earnings ceases when a claimant reaches age 65. It is then replaced by a retirement pension which the board will finance and administer for recipients. Retirement income for a permanently disabled worker will be financed by board contributions of 10 per cent of the annual benefits received by a claimant who is receiving compensation for future loss of earnings. When the worker reaches 65, the portion of retirement income that comes from the WCB will be determined by the accumulated contributions plus investment income.

The form of retirement benefit paid by the board will also be in the claimant's discretion, but if the annual retirement income payment will be less than \$1,000, a lump sum payment may be made.

Survivors and dependents of an injured worker entitled to a retirement pension will be compensated according to pension fund regulations that the board will be drafting.

Bill 162 introduces long-overdue fairness and security to the compensation of permanently injured workers. In so doing, it will restore the basic principle of workers' compensation that the economic loss resulting from workplace injuries should be fully compensated, while also recognizing that permanent injuries may result in noneconomic losses as well.

As a member of this assembly and as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour, I urge colleagues on all sides of the House to give this bill their consideration and support.

Miss Martel: I just wanted to make a couple of comments on the last speaker. First, when she was going through the history of the permanent partial disability pensions system in Ontario, she forgot to mention that after the draft bill was seen by the standing committee on resources development, even the Conservatives did not have the audacity to bring it forward into this House as part of their proposed amendments under Bill 101. Even they recognized how bad the dual system was and it did not appear in their series of reforms in 1984-85.

I go back to the purpose of the dual award system. The previous speaker talked about noneconomic loss and future loss of earnings. Let me just deal with the future loss of earnings because I think it is an important point to make. It would not be so bad, although we probably still would not agree with it, if a person's loss of earnings were going to be based on what they actually lost. The problem in this bill is that that is based upon what the board considers the

worker is capable of doing. It has nothing to do with what job the worker may or may not have, what they are capable of doing or if there is even any employment in that particular industry. It is completely based on the discretion of the board and has absolutely nothing, or very little, to do with what the worker actually did before and what his actual loss of earnings are.

Second, if one goes back to the bill, one will see that the review will occur as the board considers it appropriate. There is no guarantee in this legislation that the worker will be paid that supplement right until age 65. It can be cut off at any time as the board reviews and makes a decision upon that payment. That is completely discretionary and certainly provides no guarantee for injured workers.

I am a little disturbed by the fact that there were a number of concerns I raised last Thursday about reinstatement and rehabilitation which were not addressed by the speaker. I am hoping some other government member is going to look seriously at that and try to respond to some of the concerns I made.

Mrs. Sullivan: In relationship to the first point raised by the member for Sudbury East, I would like to reiterate that this has been a long and difficult process and, as she understands, along with other members of the House, the bill is a complicated bill that has benefited from the experience and study that occurred over that period of time.

1630

In reference to her second point, I would like to refer her to subsection 45a(2) of the bill, which contains the key feature of setting PPDP benefits at 90 per cent of the difference between the worker's actual pre-injury net earnings and the worker's projected post-injury earning capacity.

Those benefits will be determined no later than 18 months after the injury and will be reviewed two years after they are established. I am sure that, as the debate proceeds, other questions which are of concern not only to the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) but to other members of the House will be discussed by members on all sides.

Mr. Laughren: I would not miss an opportunity to engage in debate with the minister on a bill as important as Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. There is a great deal at stake for a lot of people with this bill.

Complaints about the Workers' Compensation Board have echoed loudly in this chamber many times during the 17 years I have been a member. Without exaggeration, I can say that if I had a

dollar for every time there has been a compensation problem raised either here or in one of the committees, I would be a very rich person indeed.

Last week we heard in this building more than just the voices of members speaking against the injustices of the system. We heard the building itself reverberate to the yells and the shouts and the chants of injured workers, men and women who are very fearful of what is going to happen to them under Bill 162. I do not remember any other group of people storming the Legislature. That should tell the minister something.

We in the official opposition pledge to continue our assault against the minister's flawed thinking as seen in Bill 162. He should understand that injured workers do not willy-nilly come down to the Legislature and have a demonstration and then get so agitated. As I understand it, when they heard the response of the minister to questions from my leader, that is what triggered their movement into the building itself from outside. The minister has indicated on several occasions that we were responsible somehow. He did not say for that—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is not true.

Mr. Laughren: No, the minister has indicated that at least we were responsible for getting them down to the demonstration, that that is how—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I did not indicate that at all. Do not get on that line.

Mr. Laughren: That is what the minister has said on several occasions. I just want to say to the minister that unless there are some very fundamental changes made in Bill 162 through the amendment process, that unhappiness is going to continue. I hope, despite the majority his party has and despite the majority on whatever committee this bill is referred to, that the minister will not close his mind to the acceptance of some amendments that would improve the bill. Obviously, any amendments must be in keeping with the principle of the bill, so it is not as though amendments could be put that would be contrary to the purpose of the bill itself.

The minister has already got off to a bad start with this bill, I might say, by implying that we could get through this bill without holding public hearings, without travel across the province. These changes are far-reaching for injured workers and—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Floyd, you know I never said that.

Miss Martel: You wanted it by Christmas. That means no hearings.

Mr. Laughren: It is my understanding that at a meeting with our critic, the member for Sudbury East, the Minister of Labour indicated that he wanted this bill completed by Christmas, which, of course, means there would be no public hearings and no travel across the province. If there were public hearings, they would have to be in Toronto, because how do we travel with the House in session?

I have already had calls from Thunder Bay, because I chair the standing committee on resources development, from people wondering if that committee is going to be holding public hearings on the bill. I am indicating to those people who call that it is going to be referred to a committee, that it has not yet been determined which committee, but it traditionally goes to the resources development committee.

I think what bothered people was the gall of the minister when this has such an impact on 450,000 people a year—those are claims of people who are injured on the job. He simply cannot do that to people. People will no longer accept the government altering their lives without their having a say in it, so of course they demand public hearings. There is such a tradition of it anyway, why resist it? Why did we not just get on with the business and agree to have public hearings without going through all of the agony that we did?

Of course, there is a reason the minister was not enthusiastic about the idea of putting this bill under the intense light of public scrutiny. He knows this bill will not fundamentally change the plight of injured workers in Ontario. He knows it is not going to stop the flow of injured workers into my constituency office. It will not stop the problems of bureaucratic red tape at the board level.

I can tell members without a word of exaggeration that at least 70 per cent of the people's time in my constituency office is spent on workers' compensation problems. I recognize the fact that I represent a highly industrialized area with a lot of mining and forestry, but that is not the point. The point is that the compensation system is not dealing appropriately with these people when they have a problem. If it is a straight broken arm, then usually that is resolved. If there is any kind of hitch or anything unusual about an injury or an industrial illness, that is when the problem really gets serious. If it is a recurrence of a previous injury, the board really has difficulty dealing with that as well.

One reason I do not think the situation will change very much with this bill is that when the

minister was drafting the bill, I do not think he was listening to the injured workers of the province. I think he was listening to the employers of Ontario through the Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation. That is what I suspect. That is why this bill was drafted the way it was.

Given the enormity of the problems facing the Workers' Compensation Board, one might think the government might be inclined to arrange the system so that more money goes to those people whom the system is designed to serve: namely, injured workers, particularly those with temporary and permanent disabilities or those in need of rehabilitation services.

This is not the case, however. The minister showed his hand back on June 20 in his announcement, when he discussed the financial implications of the bill. He stated: "The overall financial impact of these reforms will be revenue-neutral. They will reallocate resources within the workers' compensation system." Surely to goodness if the minister is going to reform the workers' compensation system, he knows that simply reallocating funds among people who are injured is not the answer. Surely to goodness he knows that.

It is totally inadequate, it is totally impotent and it is irresponsible, in my view, considering the very serious problems facing the workers' compensation system in this province. My leader called it the sheriff of Nottingham approach, robbing the poor to pay the poor. It really is unfair.

While it may very well have been an honest statement on the part of the minister—and I would rather have an honest statement than a dishonest one from him—can members imagine the feelings of the injured workers out there? They are following the workers' compensation legislation very closely and they are hurting. That is why they are out here every year demonstrating.

They hear the minister say, "We are going to bring in some new legislation that is going to resolve a lot of problems, and it is revenue-neutral." Well, whoop-de-do. The people who are living at an inadequate level of income must have just sagged, physically and mentally, and thought, "How in the world are they going to improve my lot in life with a revenue-neutral change in compensation?" By simply shuffling the cards, which is another way of putting it, the minister will not change anything. What he has really done is just flaunted this bill in the face of Ontario workers.

Today I would like to look at what I see as some of the problem areas in the bill.

Mr. Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1640

Mr. Laughren: I was indicating that I intended to look today at some of the problems in Bill 162. One of the problems is the whole question of discretionary powers. In fact, because of the increased discretionary power Bill 162 proposes to give to board officials, I do not hesitate in saying that we may very well see an increase in complaints related to the Workers' Compensation Board. As my colleague the member for Sudbury East so eloquently pointed out last week, the board is remarkably adept at twisting what we in the Legislature deem to be or declare to be law, given the opportunity of board officials to interpret what is already essentially bad legislation. I would submit that there is a potential for disaster.

As I said earlier, with 70 per cent of the time in my constituency office already devoted to compensation matters, the prospect of Bill 162 coming into law unsettles me a great deal, not just because it is a change but because I can see all sorts of problems because of the nature of Bill 162.

I would like to turn my attention, first of all, to section 45a, compensation for economic loss, which is one of the fundamental principles of this bill. In his statement in the Legislature on the implementation of the dual award system, the minister stated: "It's time to go beyond the meat chart and treat people as human beings. The new system will ensure that injured workers receive compensation for the economic loss associated with their injury." That was the minister speaking. Unfortunately, the new system will not ensure any such protection. One does not need to see into the future in order to predict that section 45a, as it is now worded, will be the source of numerous problems.

I am not saying I like the meat chart. I am glad the meat chart will be thrown out regarding attempting to determine compensation for the economic losses experienced by workers with permanent disabilities. As we all know, it was merely coincidence in the past whenever a percentage award assigned to the various body parts bore any relation to the financial loss suffered by the worker. For example, a person could have a 15 per cent back injury and a 100 per cent financial disability. I have all sorts of constituents who work in the bush, for example. They get a 15 per cent back disability payment. In fact, that is 100 per cent disability. That

worker is out on the street. That idea of the past of that percentage simply was not working. It was not fair.

One thing that can be said about permanent disability pensions, though, is that no matter how demeaning and arbitrary the process is, the pension represents something certain for the injured worker. WCB pensioners could always count on getting that monthly cheque even when, as a result of their inability to physically perform their pre-accident job, workers found themselves out of work and on welfare. That WCB monthly cheque would always be there for them. That was of some comfort to them at least.

Though I feel the dual-award system, as proposed by this government, is quite inferior to the model we propose, I would like to offer some specific criticisms of Bill 162 as it now stands. I hope the government will listen to the suggestions put by the injured workers and by the opposition members, because I think they have a lot to say. The opposition and the injured workers have a lot of expertise in the whole question of workers' compensation. I have the feeling that if section 45a remains as it is, injured workers will not be as certain as to what they can expect from the board.

One of the sources of this uncertainty is the wording in subsection 45a(2), which reads that compensation is payable, "for such period, up to the time that the worker reaches 65 years of age, as the board considers appropriate in the circumstances." Because of that wording, injured workers could not be blamed for thinking that the sword of Damocles was hanging over their heads. How are injured workers supposed to feel, knowing that at any time a board employee could decide it was no longer appropriate to pay the economic-loss benefit?

Can the minister tell me why that phrasing was inserted in the legislation? Go back to that wording again: "for such period, up to the time that the worker reaches 65 years of age"—and this is the part that is so bothersome—"as the board considers appropriate in the circumstances." That is a very troublesome phrase to be in there, and I can see why the injured workers have already raised a red flag over that. We are doing the same thing to the minister.

I have seen the board in action long enough to know that if there is any way it can seize upon an injured worker's noncompensable problems as being a possible cause of that worker's not being able to work, it will not hesitate to do so. I expect that, as a result of these reviews, we will undoubtedly encounter many instances in which

the board says to the injured worker, "Look, it is no longer our responsibility to pay you loss-of-earnings benefits, because we have discovered you now have a noncompensable problem that, in our opinion, is the main reason you cannot do your pre-accident job." That is how I see the Workers' Compensation Board behaving when the government gives it all that discretionary power. They do it now, and it is no wonder that there is the level of cynicism there is out there: anger, distrust and frustration at the Ontario compensation board.

To my mind, on the basis of the same reasoning, there should not be a need for the earnings-loss review slated for two and five years after the initial determination. As far as I am concerned, recalculations of earning loss should be undertaken only if the worker makes an application because of a deterioration in his or her physical condition or when there is a significant reduction in the income of the worker that can be attributed to the injury. That is the only time.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That can happen at any time.

Mr. Laughren: Well, of course it could happen at any time.

Section 45a, believe it or not, contains something even more insidious than the threat posed by the minister's insistence that the board have the right to review earnings loss, something that is sure to give injured workers greater cause for alarm, and the member for Sudbury East talked about it last week. That, of course, is the so-called deeming clause.

The wording of the clause appears rather innocent at first glance. In calculating the amount of compensation to be paid, the board will have regard for the worker's net average earnings before the injury and "the net average amount that the board considers that the worker is able to earn after the injury in suitable and available employment." The wording "suitable and available" gives enormous discretionary powers to the board and leaves me extremely worried.

On the basis of the experience to date with the new policy on supplements enacted by the board about a year ago, I have reason to be worried. Perhaps I could give one example from my constituency association.

A young man named Gary was employed by a diamond-drilling company when he was injured in the early 1980s. He was unable to return to his job. In May 1988 he completed a two-year audio-visual program at Cambrian College,

sponsored by the board's vocational rehab department.

The logical, commonsense thing for the board to have done when Gary graduated would have been to give him a supplement while he looked for work in the field for which he was newly trained; but, no, that is too much common sense for the board. Instead, he became a victim of "deeming."

On May 26 he got a letter from the board that reads as follows: "We have used information available from Statistics Canada and have determined that the 'average weekly wage for these positions'—he had been trained, by the way, as an audio-visual technician—"is \$400. This has now been deemed to be your post-accident earning capacity. Your escalated pre-accident earning capacity is \$504.63 weekly. The difference between these two figures when compared with your permanent disability award does not constitute an impairment of earning capacity which can be considered significantly greater than is usual for the nature and degree of your injury. Thus, your request for temporary supplement benefits beyond May 6, 1988, is denied."

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Miss Martel: You are making it worse.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: The government is going to make it worse. What could be stupider? Surely to goodness, this person graduates newly from the program, he is trained in audio-visual, and instead of saying to that individual, "We're going to give you supplementary benefits while you get out there and get a job in your field," the government just cuts him off. It is absolutely ridiculous.

Miss Martel: Cheaper.

Mr. Laughren: It is absolutely cheaper, that is exactly right. I really do have to slap my head sometimes in disbelief when I see some of the letters workers get from the board. There was not even a job available for this young man, Gary, and the board cut him adrift. That is what they did. Let the minister tell me how that makes any sense at all. I am worried that we are going to see more of that kind of weaselry if the minister has his way with this bill.

Indeed, I would not put it above the board to say, with the acquiescence of this government—and I hope the minister will listen to this—that deeming shall take place six months after recovery from an injury, thus virtually eliminating the need for intervention by the voc rehab

department. I can see it now. They will very tightly intervene and do their deeming process, which means it will be too late then for voc rehab to get involved.

Miss Martel: Cheaper.

Mr. Laughren: Much cheaper, and that is what we are really worried about with that section of the bill. I really do believe that in its ongoing crusade to save money, the board will say to the injured worker, "Here are two or three jobs we think you should be able to do; therefore you are not going to get supplementary benefits." That is what they are going to say to the injured workers.

Miss Martel: They are doing it now in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Laughren: They are going to be in our offices and in other members' offices. They are going to be at the Office of the Worker Adviser, they are going to be at the trade union offices, the legal clinics, saying, "What's going on here under the deeming process?" There is experience now from Saskatchewan that it is how they deal with deeming there.

We are very much opposed to that. We are told by the government that a number of factors will be considered when the determination is made of just what constitutes suitable and available employment. Included are the personal and vocational characteristics of the worker, the actual earnings of the worker at the time of the determination, receipt of payments under the Canada pension plan and the prospects for successful medical and vocational rehabilitation.

That is what we are told. The most worrisome of the factors listed, if members look at clause 45a(3)(f), is that the board may also have regard to "such other factors as may be prescribed in the regulations." Talk about trapdoors in this legislation. The regulations, of course, will be beyond the members of the assembly here. They will be established by cabinet. I do not want to see the board officials drafting regulations whose effect will be to restrict the number of workers who qualify for compensation because of wage loss.

I am really concerned that the minister is going to allow that to happen and I can see now who will draft the regulations. It will not be the minister and it will not be his parliamentary assistant, although they both have the capacity to do so. That is not who will be drafting the regulations. They will be sent down from 2 Bloor Street East, head office of the compensation board. That is who will be drafting the regulations. It is up to members on both sides of this House to insert in Bill 162 amendments which

will ensure that injured workers will not be deemed in the manner I described for Gary, who graduated from the audio-visual course.

The wording of other parts of section 45a give me problems as well. We are told in subsection 45a(1) that compensation for future loss of earnings is open to "a worker who suffers injury resulting in permanent impairment or resulting in temporary disability for 12 continuous months." The parliamentary assistant referred to that in her remarks, as a matter of fact.

Let me cite one example from my own constituency office as to why this wording needs to be changed. I want members to imagine this happening after the bill has been proclaimed. The injured worker, a woman from the community of Azilda in my constituency, developed a severe reaction to one of the chemicals in the workplace. When removed from the workplace, the reaction went away or at least subsided. How would such a person be treated under Bill 162? She would not be able to return to her job, because she would not have a disability for 12 consecutive months. It would seem to me she would be excluded from consideration for future loss of earnings. Where in the world is the justice in that system?

I see the minister shaking his head, but the way the bill is written, that is what could happen. We are very worried about that. Surely the minister should agree that anyone who, because of a work-related disablement, is unable to return to his pre-accident job should be entitled to compensation for loss of earnings. That is a very simple, very fundamental principle. If a worker cannot go back to his regular job because of a work-related injury, then there should be compensation for that. If the government does not establish that in a very clear statement of principle in the bill, the board will play games with it the way it plays games with so many other parts of the legislation.

I do not think that is a difficult concept. I think it is fair and would serve notice to the board that there are to be no games played. Perhaps an amendment can be made at an appropriate time that says that anyone who cannot return to the job he held prior to his accident will get compensation for wage loss because of the disablement. It is a simple statement of principle.

Subsection 45a(6) also gives rise to a number of questions, at least in my mind. Apparently, the loss-of-earnings benefit will be determined within one year after a WCB claim is filed and accepted by the board. If the injured worker has not sufficiently recovered from his or her injury and future earnings loss cannot be assessed, the

period during which earnings loss is to be determined may be extended by six months. This appears to me to be nothing more than an attempt by this government to limit the amount of time a worker can be on total temporary or temporary partial benefits under section 40 of the act. If that is not the purpose, why is the minister doing it and why is that part of the bill?

It seems as though the minister does not understand the problem of injuries, which can often take a lot longer to heal; people's injuries do not heal at the same rate, even the same injuries. I am worried that this section will be used by the board in a rather mean fashion as well. It seems to me it would make common sense that the calculation of compensation payable for earnings lost should be made either after actual recovery by the worker or after that worker's ability has been established through a job or following rehabilitation. Once again, I think that is a simple statement of principle that should be made in the bill.

Last year in Manitoba, a review committee analysed the dual award system and recommended the following: "A prospective wage loss pension should be set as soon after the injury as possible, i.e., immediately after the following events have taken place"—this is what is different—"optimal recovery from injury, rehabilitation measures completed and either a job found which suits the impairment or a determination made that the worker is unfit for further employment." That is a very clear statement.

Bill 162 seems obsessed with mandating all sorts of arbitrary time limits, whether for initial calculation of compensation for earnings lost or the periodic review of those calculations. Workplace injuries—indeed, workers' lives—cannot and should not be put into categories which have no basis in reason. Think of the difference between that statement from the Manitoba review and what I quoted, what Bill 162 says. There is quite a difference in the way those things read.

Ultimately, it seems to me that what these provisions do is give the board an inordinate amount of control over workers' lives. It is bad enough that their injury already dictates restrictions for them without a WCB employee with a stopwatch hovering over them to see whether their injury has healed, not medically but because of time. It makes no sense whatsoever.

I do not even see a quorum, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

The Deputy Speaker: There is a quorum present. The member may continue.

Mr. Laughren: I would like to turn to section 45, the noneconomic loss section of the bill. It was somewhat gratifying to see the government recognize that there are noneconomic losses which result from workplace injuries. The philosophical advance made in the adoption of subsection 45a(2) however, is more than tempered by the realities of how such losses will be calculated.

I guess it was just too much to ask that the meat chart be permanently assigned to the Archives of Ontario. We see it rear its ugly head once again in being used as a guidepost in determining noneconomic loss. As it now stands, the minister obviously does not place a very high value on noneconomic losses, things such as pain, suffering, loss of enjoyment and expectation of life.

Most injured workers will receive a small amount of money, less than \$10,000. That makes the minister a miser. There can be no other explanation as to why today the minister is offering injured workers less than they were offered in the 1981 white paper on the Workers' Compensation Act. That was a white paper brought out by the Conservative government and this government is offering less than even it offered. This is some reform-minded government we are dealing with here.

In sections 18 and 22 of the draft bill attached to that white paper, the noneconomic losses were to be determined as follows: A worker's percentage of permanent impairment would first be multiplied by 250 per cent of the average industrial wage in Ontario. That sum would then be added to or subtracted from, based on an age adjustment factor of two per cent per year for each year of the age of the worker below or above the age of 40.

Incidentally, the Minister of Labour at the time of this more generous way of calculating noneconomic losses was Dr. Robert Elgie, the present chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board in Ontario. Surely the current minister can do better than that. Let him use, as a guide, the damages obtained for nonpecuniary losses through the courts. Research shows the average for minor injuries in personal injury awards to be two to three times what the government proposes in Bill 162.

The government has taken a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, most injured workers' reaction to its rather half-hearted attempt at compensating for noneconomic losses is to tell the minister to take a hike. They do not like it.

I am appealing to the minister now not to be so tight-fisted. Goodness knows, no one will be able to appeal an award under section 45 if Bill 162 is not changed. Sure, there are provisions for a worker to request a reconsideration within 90 days after medical assessment, but what I am referring to is the right to a real appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal.

I really was taken aback to read the provisions of subsection 45(15), which states that no application can be made to the appeals tribunal for a reconsideration of the amount awarded for noneconomic losses. This is not the only section in Bill 162 in which the appeals tribunal is snubbed by this minister. That is a very fundamental flaw in this bill.

I know the board does not like the appeals tribunal, I know the employers do not like it and I know the minister does not like it, but it is there and it is there for a reason. In Bill 162 I detect a concerted attempt by this government to muzzle the body which finally brought some humanity to the workers' compensation system in Ontario. It is no secret that the employers are unhappy with the decisions that have been made by the appeals tribunal. The minister is attempting to mollify them somehow, by writing the tribunal out of the picture in cases like this, such as noneconomic loss.

While I am on the subject of the appeals tribunal, let me read one brief quote from the Workers' Compensation Board 1987 Year-End Review and 1988 Agenda; that is this document. According to the document, "Decisions have to be reasoned and explicable to the board's clients. They have to be based on a coherent body of policy and law and they must be subject to an open and credible appeal process, both internal and external."

Does it embarrass the minister that even the compensation board that does not like the WCAT, despite all its quarrels about the tribunal, sees there to be a need for a continuing role for the appeals tribunal? Even the compensation board has gone further than he has. Yet here he is writing out the appeals tribunal in the act. It is as though he is saying that while there are certain things on which the workers can appeal to WCAT, there are other things that the board will decide. Why? Surely to goodness it should be able to be appealed to WCAT.

WCAT was set up because, at least in a layman's view, there seemed to be an injustice in appeals going to the same body that was denying them in the first place. We said the compensation board should not be able to deny appeals when it

made the original decision. I think it was a very progressive decision to establish the WCAT so that it was separate from the board and the board was not ruling on its own decisions. Now the minister is slipping back into that old mode where the board is going to make the final decision.

I do not know how he justifies that on the ground of common justice. He is establishing one set of rules for certain things in the act and another set of rules for other things in the act. It is as though he is saying that in one case they are not really rights for the workers; they are something that the board will decide.

I think it is viewed to be much more of a right if there is an appeal to WCAT. If there is not an appeal to WCAT, then it is more a case of—and I will exaggerate to make the point—“We are doing you a favour and we will decide internally. But because we are doing you a favour, of course, you cannot appeal it to WCAT.” That is the impression this part of the bill will give to injured workers. That is certainly how it strikes me. Heaven knows, the last thing I would want to do is refer things to the courts, but I really wonder whether something like that would even stand up in court. But, as I say, that is a layman’s view.

I would like to tell the minister what this party thinks about the dual award system in general. Basically, our position is contained in the suggestions we made in our dissenting report to the December 1983 report of the standing committee on resources development. This is a document which a great deal of effort went into by all sides of the House. We had a dissenting report and, as I recall, members of the Liberal caucus had a dissenting report as well. We may come back to that before I am through this afternoon.

The first part of our dual award system proposed that the worker receive a lifetime clinical-disability rating-related pension, fully indexed for inflation to compensate for nonoccupational losses. Our revised clinical rating system would assess functional impairment and place compensation for nonoccupational factors for the first time on a just and rational basis.

The second half of our proposal will be a lifetime pension to compensate for injured workers’ loss of earning capacity. This second lifetime indexed pension would deal with injured workers’ occupational losses. It would compensate not only for wage loss at the time of re-entry into the labour force, but also for the effect of the

future earnings of permanently disabled workers.

1710

Leaving behind the question of payments to injured workers, let me deal with what I have long regarded as the poor cousin of the workers’ compensation system in Ontario, and that, of course, is the vocational rehabilitation department.

It has long been my contention that there would not be as great a need for vocational rehabilitation if the employers had a greater sense of responsibility towards those injured on the job. As a result, I would like to examine first the question of mandatory reinstatement. What I am really saying is that if the employers had a greater responsibility to injured workers, we would not need as much rehabilitation as we do now.

Perhaps nothing illustrates more clearly the government’s cynicism towards reform of the workers’ compensation system than what it proposes to add to section 54. It thinks it can placate injured workers and those who fight on their behalf by this, which is clearly a half-hearted attempt at giving injured workers the right of reinstatement. It really and truly is a half-hearted attempt.

Before I outline what section 54b does not do, let me provide the House with a glimpse of what the injured worker community would have liked to have seen as far as reinstatement rights are concerned.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All, the document that this government brought out, was done by Majesky and Minna, who did a superb job on problems of rehab services in the province. They heard from many injured workers who could not get back to their pre-injury jobs. According to the study:

“The research indicated that 35 per cent of the interviewed workers stated their former employers didn’t help at all; 18 per cent said they had been offered alternate jobs they couldn’t do. Only one in four of the injured workers were offered their old position back, a different one, or modified work.”

The recommendations of the task force should have been adopted by this government. Number 17 in here, if the minister wants some time to refer to it, states:

“That a worker who is injured at the workplace or contracts an occupational disease shall have the statutory right to return to the pre-injury job. Where the worker is no longer capable of performing that job, he or she shall have the right to another job in the same enterprise, respecting seniority rights.”

It is a very clear, very strong statement in defence of a worker's statutory right for reinstatement, and without that statutory right, we are not going very far to improve the rehab system in the province.

The commitment of the minister to reinstatement is obviously only skin deep. Why else would he exclude approximately one quarter of Ontario's workforce from the provisions of 54b?

We are told that workers engaged in the construction industry are not equal with other Ontario workers. We are told that workers in places with fewer than 20 employees are also not worthy of reinstatement rights and, of course, the minister can also exclude others if he so desires, and I can assure him that the lobbying will begin. If this bill passes in its present form, the lobbying will begin for other exclusions as well.

The omission of those two categories, construction workers and places of employment with fewer than 20 employees, is really flabbergasting when I think of the number of people that omits.

I would ask the Minister of Labour to have a chat with his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter). He might ask him for a copy of his booklet, *The State of Small Business; Annual Report on Small Business in Ontario, 1987*.

According to that document, in 1984, the last year that apparently they could get statistics for, some 19 per cent of Ontario workers were employed by private sector firms with 20 or less employees. Add to that the fact that Statscan reported this past spring that 312,000 workers, six per cent of the labour force, worked in construction. That is where I get the 25 per cent: 19 and 6.

I submit that the minister had better sit down and ask himself how, in all good conscience, he could submit such a discriminatory bill for our consideration. He has left out one quarter of the Ontario workforce.

I understand there are problems associated with construction workers because of the nature of the industry. I am not saying there are not particular problems with them, but I think the minister has not done enough to work out those problems and get some form of reinstatement for them.

I worry that his people told him that it was just impossible because of all these reasons, and he went along with it, threw up his hands and excluded them, rather than—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Why don't you explain what you understand to your leader, instead of making silly allegations?

Miss Martel: That does not mean we agree with you.

Mr. Laughren: I do not agree with the minister. I am saying that—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Your leader dominates question period with it.

Mr. Laughren: There would not even be a need for questions in question period if the minister would simply do something about including construction workers in this bill. I do not believe it is an insurmountable problem. All I said was that I think there are particular problems associated with construction workers. I concede that. But I do not think they are insurmountable and that the minister should just throw up his hands and say, "I guess we cannot do anything about that," and exclude them, plus the employees where there are fewer than 20 at the workplace.

Not only are the exemptions not logical, but it seems to me they run counter to what is in the Human Rights Code. I do not know whether the minister was brought up to speed on the Human Rights Code vis-à-vis this part of the act, but section 4 of the code reads: "Every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to employment without discrimination because of... handicap."

"Handicap" is defined in that legislation as "any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury." More specifically, in the context of the debate we are having today—this is from the code again—"as an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the Workers' Compensation Act."

The Human Rights Code in section 16 goes so far as to require employers to reasonably accommodate a worker's disability. Why is it that this government in the Human Rights Code does not exempt workers in the construction industry, yet finds it fit to do so in the Workers' Compensation Act? The reason is obvious: You whisper the right words into the minister's right ear and you get what you want.

I know the minister is shaking his head, but I do not understand how the Human Rights Code can say one thing—it does not exclude construction workers, if I read it correctly. Yet this bill does. How does that make any sense at all? What is so special about the Workers' Compensation Act, so precious about it that it cannot deal with workers in the construction industry? The Human Rights Code took a look at it and said they are not excluded.

I wonder if the minister was really truly properly briefed in that regard. I would ask the minister to reread the Majesky-Minna report, especially page 120, in which it is noted that: "The failure to return the injured worker to the pre-injury job must surely be expensive for the WCB and the employer. But the costs to the injured workers are far greater than only financial loss—failure to return to pre-injury employment may result in years of frustrating job search, depression or even uprooting from the community."

I can tell the minister that as someone who represents an area that is very sprawling with a lot of small communities and isolated communities, those are prophetic words. I have had cases where a unilingual francophone bush worker, at age 45, was told he was going to have to relocate because there was no suitable employment there. That is the kind of attitude that the board has had in the past.

The task force report, the Majesky-Minna report, in considering how best to protect the rights of injured workers, spent some time dwelling on the role that could be played by collective agreements, but concluded, and I quote once again: "A more appropriate vehicle would be a legislative and policy framework that clarifies worker rights and management responsibilities in this area."

Surely this bill was the opportunity to do that. Yet Bill 162 has abdicated that responsibility to guarantee injured workers the rights of reinstatement. It was a wonderful opportunity for the worker, for the minister—I almost called the minister a worker—a wonderful opportunity for the minister to right some of those very fundamental wrongs in labour legislation in this province.

1720

We are calling upon the government to enshrine the right to a job in law. We made a presentation to this task force report, in which we said:

"Injured workers must be granted the statutory right to a place in the workforce. Accident employers must be legally required to rehire their injured employees. In those rare instances where this is impossible because of the severity of the disability, the onus must be on the employer to prove incompatibility. In such cases, the injured worker would be guaranteed an alternative suitable job, through the provision of vocational training, counselling and placement services by the Workers' Compensation Board."

That statement is very pro injured workers, very much so. It really says to an injured worker: "You will no longer be penalized in a job sense because you happen to have enough faith in the work ethic to go out there and work. You got hurt on the job doing what everybody agrees people should do in this world: work, contribute to the overall betterment of society." They get work and then they are penalized financially, and in many other ways as well.

There was an opportunity here for this government to show that it is different from governments of the past and to bring in some really meaningful reform. In a case like this, they blew that opportunity. I really hope there is going to be room for an openness vis-à-vis amendments, but we will see as the bill goes out to committee and public hearings.

If the minister does not listen to me, he might try talking to members of his own party to see if they feel that the employer penalty provisions for refusing to comply with reinstatement are strong enough. According to subsection 54b(4), "The board may levy a penalty on the employer in the amount of 90 per cent of the worker's net average earnings for the year preceding the injury." That is from Bill 162.

In their dissenting report, the Liberal members on the standing committee on resources development—that is this white-covered report that the minister may have encountered in his job—in 1983 stated that "any such employer refusing re-employment should face increased assessment costs amounting to 100 per cent of any wage loss suffered by the injured employee, plus the cost of any fringe benefit loss." Members can check it out. It is on page 93, as a matter of fact.

That recommendation was signed by the member for Huron (Mr. Riddell), the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) and the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye). If the now Minister of Agriculture and Food could sign that statement, the Minister of Labour should at least be able to meet it, if not improve upon it. All three of those members are now in the cabinet. Perhaps there is a message there. If the minister wants to stay in the cabinet, he had better start bringing in some progressive legislation. I would like to think that is the message, but I am not sure it is true.

That was the Liberal members, who looked at the whole question of reinstatement very carefully back in 1983. I do not know what has changed since then; certainly not the need. There is no less a need now for rehabilitation than there was then,

yet now the minister is not even prepared to go that far. I think that is fundamentally wrong.

I would like to spend a few moments on vocational rehabilitation services in general. I find it necessary once again to chide the government for ignoring the Majesky-Minna report. That report was quite passionate about the need to increase and improve the level of rehabilitation services offered to injured workers. The testimony heard throughout the province provided compelling and evocative evidence that the WCB is failing in its obligations to injured workers. On page 46 of the report we are told:

"A number of things can be perceived readily. The WCB still has a pre-WWI mentality about the nature and goals of rehabilitation and is generations away from the concept of rehabilitation espoused in the 1980s. At least part of the blame for this attitude must be laid at the feet of a succession of provincial governments."

I am sure the minister is quite happy to see that the Majesky-Minna report was blaming previous governments for failure to address the problem of rehabilitation properly, but then why does he not do something about it? He has no room to gloat if he is not going to change the errors of the past.

I do not hesitate to tell the minister that if Bill 162 is not strengthened, the complaints that we will hear in the future will almost certainly be laid at his feet. The complaints will not go away; the injured workers will not go away; we will not go away until there are very serious and very major improvements in this act.

To be sure, the minister, in his June 20 statement, used all the right rhetoric. To quote him, he declared: "We want to make sure that an injury at work does not mean permanent exile from the workplace. Under the old system, the opportunity for the injured worker to return to his or her job was, in many cases, a matter of chance. The new system will make it a matter of priority."

Very good rhetoric. Certainly we needed more than the nine lines found in section 54 of this bill, but we did not need more empty language that does not make a commitment to the idea of the right to rehabilitation for all injured workers. The minister would have done well to adopt recommendation 13 of this task force, "That any worker who sustains a serious injury or debilitating disease linked to the workplace shall have the statutory right to all rehabilitation required by that worker." That is another example of a statement of principle which, if it were built into this bill, would send a very clear message to the Workers' Compensation Board.

I know the minister believes that before there can be any massive reform of the compensation system, we have to make the existing system work better. I have heard him say that. I understand why he feels that way. Before we do any major shakeup of the board, such as bringing in a universal system, which I will talk about in a moment, we have to make the present system work, get it working properly so that there is not a sense of anger out there year after year.

But when there was an opportunity to do that by stating certain principles as statutory rights in this bill, he fell short of doing it. I do not think he is going to make that system work without some of those statements of principle that give a clear message to the board that: "Look, don't give us your arbitrary decision-making any more. These are the statutory rights of injured workers," whether they are to do with pensions, rehabilitation or reinstatement. Unless those statements of principles are made, the board will find ways of weaseling. We have no reason to believe it will not, given history.

We have already told the minister that it is appalling that under section 54a, workers generally will be entitled to assistance for up to only 18 months from the date of their injury. The reason that this is so—and this should be made perfectly clear to the injured workers out there—is that section 54a only "applies in respect of a worker who receives benefits under section 40."

How this minister can expect injured workers to derive any benefit from such services as upgrading, training and job search assistance within the time constraints imposed by section 54a is completely beyond my comprehension. The minister is being totally silly in expecting all injured workers to have recovered from their injuries and to derive a meaningful benefit from a rehabilitation program in the space of a year and a half. I would like to know where that 18-month figure came from. Who in the world gave it to the minister? How did he pick that one out of the air? Eighteen months is a ridiculous figure. I sure hope the minister is going to be open for an amendment there.

Let me read into the record an interesting quote, once again from the Majesky-Minna task force report, and let members judge for themselves whether the minister is being realistic. On page 53, we are told that, and I quote: "Statistics from VDR sources and task force interviews indicate that typical VDR clients do not, in fact, come into contact with VDR counsellors for some 18 months following the injury."

Here we are restricting them to help within an 18-month period, but we are told in this government report that they do not even come into contact with the rehabilitation counsellor for 18 months. What kind of nonsense is that? What kind of rehabilitation assistance are they going to get from the board?

1730

They tell us that the first contact was made at 18 months, and the minister is saying that we want the whole process completed within 18 months. I smell a rat. The WCB's record to date on retraining is a scandal. We quoted the statistics in the House before, but they bear repeating.

From 1980 to 1985 the number of referrals to the vocational rehabilitation department doubled from 5,700 to 11,000—round figures—yet, amazingly, the number of training programs commenced during those years remained stable, from 2,246 to 2,654. So even though the referrals doubled, the number of programs stayed the same.

Is that a serious commitment to rehabilitation in a rapidly changing technological world out there? That tells me the board is making only a halfhearted effort at rehabilitation. Frankly, I have grown tired of all the number of times I have been told by injured workers that all the vocational rehabilitation department offered them was the yellow pages. They call it yellow pages rehab.

A worker says, "Well, what am I going to do now?" The counsellor says: "Here are the yellow pages. Go out and find something." What kind of rehabilitation is that? The difference, of course, is that now he has only 18 months to go through the yellow pages.

It really is not a serious commitment to rehabilitation when you tell a worker to look through the yellow pages. This government must insist that the compensation board get serious about the reintegration of injured workers back into the job market, and it is not doing it in Bill 162. As a result, taxpayers as a whole will continue to bear costs that should properly be borne by employers.

Perhaps I should explain that briefly. As long as the board does not carry out its obligations and a worker, instead of being rehabilitated, ends up on the welfare rolls, guess who picks up the tab? The taxpayers at large. If, on the other hand, that injured worker goes into a proper rehab program, the employers in the province collectively pick up the tab; and so they should, because it is a work-related problem. As long as you do not

have proper rehabilitation and that worker ends up on the welfare rolls, the taxpayers are picking up something that should be paid for by the employers in the province.

We, on this side, have long advocated that there should be a comprehensive and holistic approach to rehabilitation. The board's approach to rehabilitation should be one that addresses an injured worker's physical, mental, social, vocational and economic needs.

Let me begin my closing remarks. They are rather extended closing remarks, but they are closing remarks.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to tease the bears in the rump.

Perhaps the most unwise comments that I have heard during this session were made by the Minister of Labour on Wednesday, October 19. Talking about the reforms contained in Bill 162, he stated:

"The government is moving them forward because today, 73 years after it came into existence, the worker compensation system is broken. There is no one among us, neither workers nor employers, who does not agree that this is true. There is a consensus in this province that the system needs repair. Bill 162 is a major step in getting that job done."

That was the Minister of Labour speaking one week ago today, but surely the minister cannot be serious with that statement. It is broken all right, and he is fixing it with more broken parts. That is all he is doing. It is not working and the minister knows it. The minister took some pride in quoting supportive editorials from Ontario newspapers, but, with all due respect to members of the media, they are simply not aware of all the subtleties involved in workers' compensation matters.

What matters is that the minister has injured workers trying to knock down his doors. What matters is that those of us already swamped with WCB cases in our constituency offices feel that this is a bad bill. The minister is going to have to go back to the drawing board on this one. A revenue-neutral bill will not come close to solving injured workers' problems.

Bill 162 must not become law. The bill to reform the Workers' Compensation Board Act does indeed reform it, but all the reform in the world will not transform a dinosaur into a deer. I can tell him that. The existing act and all that flows from it is a dinosaur and, like the dinosaur, it is going to collapse under its own weight.

Think about it. In order to compensate workers who get hurt on the job in Ontario, we have in this province the board office itself, of course, at 2 Bloor Street East. We have the regional and district offices throughout the province. We have the Downsview rehabilitation centre. We have the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal. We have the Industrial Disease Standards Panel. We have the office of the employer adviser. We have the office of the worker adviser. We have all the community legal clinics out there. We have the members' constituency offices. We have the trade union movement that is wrestling with it all the time.

We have all of these things and a \$6-billion unfunded liability on top of that. Is it any wonder the employers are unhappy? They do not like the system. Injured workers are unhappy; they do not like the system. All in all, we have a system that has become unworkable.

What is the answer by succeeding governments? Change the chairman of the compensation board. We have had a succession of chairmen. They cannot fix it, because it is not fixable. No commissions or studies have been able to change it, because all previous studies that were done were based on the assumption that it could be fixed, that it was a model that needed fine-tuning.

That was fundamentally wrong, that assumption. I do not think we should be surprised. I do not think the minister should feel guilty or surprised that the system is not working. It is a 1915 model. I am not surprised it is no longer appropriate in the 1980s. It is obsolete. The present system is a model that cannot work efficiently, because it has become obsolete.

It is slow, it is adversarial, it is arbitrary, it is confusing and it is cruel. On top of all that, it is expensive. We need a universal plan, not the mind-numbing reform that is represented in Bill 162. This bill is garbage.

Mr. Black: Harsh words.

Mr. Laughren: I will repeat it for the member.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I am not talking about the minister. The minister has brought forth his bill, as he is supposed to do. I did not say a bad thing about the minister. All I said was that this bill is garbage, and that is what it is.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: It is not. It is not an improvement on the present system. So why are

we going through all this agony? I think members of the Liberal Party must know by now that I would not criticize without offering an alternative, a positive alternative, an exciting alternative. I would not just stand here in my place and criticize something the government was doing. I feel I have an obligation to say what should be done in order to make the system workable.

There is a plan that is workable and it is working right now in New Zealand. It is a universal accident compensation system. It covers everyone, regardless of where he is injured—at work, at home, at play, in an automobile. It covers everyone.

It is not expensive. The total cost of administration of the New Zealand plan is about nine per cent. I will bet it is a lot less than the administration costs of the compensation board, which deals only with injured workers. The New Zealand plan covers everyone.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It doesn't cover industrial disease.

Mr. Laughren: No, it does not. It is not perfect. I am not suggesting that. The diseases are not built into that. I think they should be, and they are now wrestling with that problem. But this is the way the system works. The employers pay all the costs. If a worker gets hurt on the job, for the first week the employer pays the cost. I think it is 80 per cent. For the second week, the compensation system drops into place and that person gets compensated by the accident compensation corporation.

1740

No matter where an earner gets hurt, the employer pays for it. If an employee gets hurt at home, the employer pays that. If the employee gets hurt on the job, the employer pays the cost of the compensation. It is billed to the employer. The employers have a bigger responsibility in terms of cost because they pay the cost of compensating the injured worker regardless of where that injured worker is hurt, unless it is in a car. Then they pay through their licence. For people who are hurt in cars, that comes out of the auto drivers' fund. They pay for that, just as we do, only they do it in a universal scheme. People who get hurt at home and are not earners, for example, a housewife or perhaps a student, are paid for out of general revenues of the country. The cost of the universal plan in New Zealand—

Mr. Miller: Is there a premium?

Mr. Laughren: No. No premium. General tax revenues.

Mr. Miller: Is it free?

Mr. Laughren: There is no free lunch, but the employers—

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: This party has never believed there is a free lunch. It is this government, that hands out \$2.81 million to Inco in a year when it is making \$500 million, that thinks there is a free lunch, not us. We are not the party that believes in the free lunch. It is the Liberals.

Mr. Miller: Have you ever been an employer?

Mr. Laughren: Certainly. I am now.

Mr. Miller: An employer?

Mr. Laughren: Yes. I am. I am, right now, an employer. The cost of the universal plan in New Zealand for employers—keep in mind that in Ontario, the employers pay only for work-related injuries. That is the reason it is such an adversarial system. In New Zealand, the employers pay for the injured workers whether they get hurt on the job, at home or at play. The cost in New Zealand in 1987, the average assessment on employers was \$2.33 per \$100 of payroll. In Ontario, the assessment against the employers—these are average figures now—is \$2.88 per \$100 of employee payroll.

In New Zealand, because it is a universal plan—it is not adversarial. They do not need all that weight that is in our present plan that I read through a few minutes ago—a universal plan that covers earners no matter where they are injured and the cost to employers is \$2.33 a \$100 payroll. In Ontario, it is \$2.88 for \$100 of payroll with much less coverage for the injured workers.

I think it is time in this province that we had a serious look at a universal accident scheme. I must tell the members that it would require major reform. That would be the kind of reform that a reform-minded government could take some pride in. I would feel much better if I were standing here today debating the principles of a universal accident compensation system than I do debating amendments to a system that really cannot be fixed. I think that would be an exciting time in the history of Ontario, exciting as a package of social reform and of reform for the compensation system which the employers are not happy with.

Talk to any employers' group in the province. They hate the compensation system. Talk to employees, the injured workers. They hate the system. Nobody likes the compensation system in this province. I am not suggesting for a moment that because I am standing in my place that we should automatically have a universal

system in the province, but I do think it would be appropriate for this government to take, for the first time ever, a very serious look at a universal accident compensation system for the province of Ontario.

In New Zealand, they are even having a debate now along these lines. They are saying, "How is it possible that a person who is born with a disability and spends his life in a wheelchair, at the age of 20 that person is getting X dollars of support from the state," and that person would not be covered under this system in New Zealand, "while at the same time someone who gets hurt on the job at the age of 20 and sits in a wheelchair for the rest of his life gets a totally different income?"

What the policy makers in New Zealand are arguing or discussing now is, where is the justice in that? Put aside for the moment the question of the compensation board and employers and all that. Just in terms of people who sit in a wheelchair, how does it make any sense to compensate one differently from the other? I think most members, if they would put aside the partisanship of the debate here for the moment and just think about that, would agree that it does not make sense to set up two classes of injured people.

The minister interjected quite appropriately a few minutes ago that the New Zealand plan does not include diseases. He is quite right, and they are right now having a major debate down there on the whole question of diseases under the plan. They know that whatever you do is going to cost money, but at least they are sensitive enough to be having the debate and saying there is something wrong with the system.

As a matter of fact, I was in New Zealand a couple of years ago and met with employer groups; I met with trade unions; I met with government people. I was surprised, quite frankly, when I met with the employers and asked them directly, "What do you think of the system?" They said, "Oh, we've got some problems with it, but we sure wouldn't want to go back to the old system." They said that; and I was not down there selling it, I was there trying to learn information about it.

They of course say, "Oh, we don't like the way the costs are going up" and so forth. That is perfectly understandable, but they would not go back to the old system and the old system is our system we have now. We are out of date.

It would be very nice if the Minister of Labour could at some point in his career be able to look back—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Give me a year or two.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. I do not expect it this year.

The Minister of Labour, when the shouting of this place has subsided and he has his grandchildren on his knee, could say to them, "You know that system of accident compensation; I was in place when we introduced that," or "I was in place when we had a major royal commission on the possibility of that system." That would be a feather in anyone's cap to have been a part of that.

One cannot prejudge what would be in any such royal commission report, but at least it would be good to have it. I was absolutely amazed a couple of years ago when the Ontario Mining Association said, "We like that idea of a royal commission into our universal system." They may have different reasons for wanting that than I do, but at least they recognize that the present system is not working.

What I propose is not complicated, it is not expensive and it is humane and logical. Thank you, I have enjoyed the debate this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will begin by saying that I enjoyed listening to the member for Nickel Belt. I particularly enjoyed his comments on a universal disability system.

I just do want to take a moment or two, though, to address some of the questions he has raised in his analysis of the bill. Obviously, I disagree with much of that analysis.

He talked about the re-employment provisions within the bill. I want to tell him that I think one of the major progressive measures in Bill 162 is that we have started, in a statutory way, to address the issue of re-employment. In a sense, I concede to him that over the next few years this is going to be one of the developing areas of the law as we start down that road, but the thing that is exciting in Bill 162 is the concept is finally ceded within the statute and reorients that system in that way.

I want also to address his comments on vocational rehabilitation, because it did come up in question period as well. There was a suggestion in question period and in the remarks of the member for Nickel Belt that somehow vocational rehabilitation is going to be limited to 18 months. If there is that impression in the current wording of the statute, then we have some wordsmithing to do.

The clear intention of the bill is that vocational rehabilitation be available on an ongoing basis. I want to take up and re-examine, by reading Hansard, the comments of the member for Nickel

Belt (Mr. Laughren) because a misimpression has been created. There is no intention to restrict vocational rehabilitation for an injured worker to a period of 18 months.

1750

Miss Martel: In terms of the last comments made by the minister on vocational rehabilitation, while he is taking that up and looking at the question of 18 months, which I also raised with him, perhaps he should also look at the time limits in section 4. Now, for the first time ever, we see time limits on assistance offered to workers who are looking for employment. He should make some changes there.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the members for their assistance. I was listening carefully and I know the member will contain her remarks to make comments on what the member for Nickel Belt said.

Miss Martel: In view of what the member for Nickel Belt said on vocational rehabilitation, let me continue and say that while there is a process of review going on, and the minister has admitted to that, I think what the member said today is that there is a real problem with vocational rehabilitation that we all see on this side of the House.

Nothing in the bill guarantees a statutory right to have vocational rehabilitation to injured workers who are suffering from a serious injury. We go back to the Majesky-Minna report, which stated that every worker who was off after 30 days of the date of accident had a right to total rehabilitation. That appears nowhere in this bill. Rehabilitation is offered at the discretion of the board. I state to the minister again, when things are left to the discretion of the board, he can be assured they will not happen.

The second problem we see with this is a question of early intervention, which we are worried about because even though the board is supposed to look at injured workers 45 days after the date of accident, there is no guarantee that vocational rehabilitation assistance will be offered. Even after the six months' vocational assessment, again there is no guarantee on the part of the board to provide vocational rehabilitation.

The minister has got to admit that in comparison with the Majesky-Minna task force, rehabilitation as it appears in this bill is a farce. He has to look at it again. That is one of the major points my colleague mentioned. I hope that when there is a reassessment of this bill, that is taken into consideration.

Mr. Pouliot: While the distinguished member for Sudbury East was speaking from the heart, we were able to notice at first hand what a shameful and disturbing performance, and I am appalled and shocked—

Interjections.

Mr. Pouliot: We are talking about a very serious matter that was raised by our good friend the member for Nickel Belt, sounding indeed like an injured worker himself.

He took us step by step, presenting the House with a very vivid approach, indicating in a period of time lasting more than an hour that the bill was flawed in his opinion; a bill that proposes, when all is said and done, what the minister calls revenue-neutral. In other words, the bottom line does not change. With great fanfare, he talks about the re-employment provision, which is only a half measure. The minister should realize that unless the fundamentals are addressed when we are talking about workers' compensation, his very colleagues will be the first to ask him to carry the guilt very shortly.

This bill does not even begin to address what is wrong in terms of fair, consistent, continuous compensation for people who have suffered injury. The vision of my friend the member for Nickel Belt proposed a workable measure, saying to the minister, "You have the opportunity to go one step further and introduce a sort of guarantee"—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Are there any other members with any comments or questions regarding the comments made by the member for Nickel Belt? If not the member for Nickel Belt may wish to respond for up to two minutes.

Mr. Laughren: It is always good to be reminded by your colleagues of what you were just talking about. I appreciate their comments.

I would say to the minister that in my remarks I referred to the rehabilitation system as the poor cousin in the workers' compensation system. I have always felt that was the case. It would be very nice if we had a Minister of Labour who would regard the rehab process as his pet project and try to do something about rehab.

There is no model out there in the private sector that deals with rehabilitation. The insurance companies are nowhere to be seen when it comes to rehab, so we have to build our own model, what we regard as an excellent model, through the compensation system. We can have any kind of insurance policy we like and we will not have a good rehab system built into that insurance policy; they simply do not exist. That is why I think the workers' compensation rehab system has staggered along year after year and just simply has not done the job.

I can remember, years ago, meeting with workers up in far northwestern Ontario where they did not know there was rehabilitation; they did not know it was available to them. We have come some way since then, of course, but we have a long way to go yet. I hope that when the minister is thinking about amendments, and I am sure a bill this complex is going to require some government amendments as well, he will think seriously about and build into this bill some of the suggestions that have been made vis-à-vis rehabilitation and reinstatement in particular, because I think they would go a long way to making this a better system for injured workers in the province.

On motion by Mr. Pope, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

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 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
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 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
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Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orléans L)
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Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
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 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
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 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
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 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
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 garry PC)
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Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, October 27, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 27, 1988

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved second reading of Bill 156, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

The Deputy Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have not timed it so I am not sure how much time I am reserving for the windup.

Bill 156 calls for a minimum wage in Ontario based on 65 per cent of the previous year's industrial average wage for Ontario, Statscan figures. The bill would set a direction for Ontario and would assume the leadership we should be showing in terms of workers and social legislation in this province. It could also give some real meaning to income redistribution or fairness for our people and provide a clear indication that the income and allowances needs so clearly pointed out in the recent study by Judge Thomson will be taken seriously in Ontario.

In my remarks, I will deal with a number of the issues surrounding the need for a decent minimum wage in this province. I hope to reserve a couple of minutes of my time for summation.

As caucus Labour critic for my party and as an elected member from a working-class riding, I hear a lot about the problems facing ordinary working people, men and women. Before I was elected to this place, I spent many years as a trade union organizer and was privileged to work on a day-to-day basis not only in Ontario but also across this country of ours, helping working people to organize and to deal with some of their everyday problems in a collective way at the workplace. I think I understand the problems and I think I understand some of the frustrations that working people face on a day-to-day basis.

My work at the Legislature, the full time I have been here, has been dedicated to trying to find

solutions—not just patchwork or Band-Aid solutions—for those problems that let people get on with their lives in dignity and according to their hopes and desires. That is why I am proud to tell the members of this House why we need a better decent minimum wage. Let me tell you what I mean.

I have here an article from the Sault Star about the efforts of Genosio Paciocco to make governments aware of the plight of the working poor. Mr. Paciocco says in the article, "I have been working for the same company for 12 years now and still I am paid minimum wage." Asked about the recent increase in the minimum wage, the last increase of 20 cents an hour, he said, "It is a mere slap in the face."

He wrote to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and, on September 6 this year, the minister replied. In that letter the minister says, "Raising the minimum wage in a substantial way may not necessarily be the most effective method of improving the income of the working poor."

Earlier this year, on August 15, the minister told Mr. Paciocco in another letter: "Unfortunately, the problem of poverty is too complex to be solved simply by increasing the minimum wage. The government of Ontario believes that the problem of poverty must be attacked at the root by providing low-wage workers with the education, training and economic opportunities they need."

I submit that that sort of condescending paternalism is something we are accustomed to hearing from this minister, as we were from some of the previous Labour ministers. Genosio Paciocco does not need homilies about his employability. He needs a decent wage, and the minister is doing nothing about it. Right now, the minimum wage in Ontario is \$4.75 an hour. If you figure it out, that is \$192 a week or \$9,880 a year, less than \$10,000 a year. Frankly, I suspect that is less than many members of this Legislature are paying in income tax.

The National Council of Welfare circulates what it calls a low-income line each year. Most of us call it the poverty level in the province. This year, a family of four, living in a metropolitan area, needs \$23,521 to be above that line. If we have two minimum-wage incomes—and I can tell

members, as most of them, I am sure, will attest to, that there are many—they will earn 84 per cent of the poverty level. Things are obviously more desperate if there are not two income earners in the family or if one of the people is only working part-time.

I would like to have time—and I do not; I can see it on the time that is going now—to read the article of David Thornley of the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, where he deals with just what minimum wage means and the number of people involved, but there are a couple of things I think that are worth saying. He goes into some of the arguments against minimum wage and then says:

"This argument ignores several salient characteristics of low-income households in Canada, namely: (1) households with heads under 25, both families and single persons, are twice as likely to be poor as those headed by someone between the ages of 25 and 44; (2) for families with one income earner, the risk of poverty is more than three times as great as for families with two or more earners; (3) female-headed families are nearly five times more likely to be living in poverty than are male-headed families, and (4) for families supported by a head working part-time, the risk of poverty is five times as great as for families where the head works full-time."

Here we have today two minimum-wage income earners who would be earning only 84 per cent of what is considered the poverty level in a metropolitan area. Since 1975, according to the Thomson report on social assistance, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has declined by 22 per cent. This means that people like Mr. Paciocco, whom I referred to a moment ago, are much worse off now than when I was first elected to this place in that same year of 1975. That, I say to members, is a disgrace, and we should all consider it a disgrace.

Now it is true that the minimum wage has been maintained at the rate of inflation for the last few years. Unfortunately, this seems to be the key argument of the Minister of Labour. It is an argument of a self-satisfied minister and a self-satisfied majority government. All this government has really done is keep the people in the desperate position that its Tory predecessors allowed them to slide into, and it has not improved that position one iota. They have not improved their purchasing power. They have done nothing to get them off the treadmill.

I recommend to all members of this House that they read George Thomson's report, as most of the members in my caucus are doing, the report

and what it has to say about poverty and the minimum wage. Among other things, it says, "In relation to the average industrial wage, minimum wage has declined steadily in recent years." In other words, we are creating even more of a group of poor people in this province of ours. "Between 1975 and 1985, it dropped from 47 per cent of the average industrial wage to 38 per cent." That is to be found on page 289 of Mr. Thomson's report.

1010

In 1975, the minimum wage provided income to a two-earner, four-person family that was 106 per cent of—in other words, just a little bit more than—the poverty line. As I have just said, it now provides 84 per cent of the poverty line. Once again, we have gone backwards, not forwards.

Thomson has some other interesting things to say about the minimum wage, and one of them is particularly relevant to the comments the Minister of Labour has made recently. Thomson notes as follows, and I will give his direct quote:

"The low value of the minimum wage has had particularly harmful consequences for two groups in particular: women and young people. A recent report of the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto cites Statistics Canada figures that are generally supported by previous surveys undertaken by the Ontario Ministry of Labour. As of December 1984, 62 per cent of minimum-wage workers were women and 60 per cent were under the age of 25.

"Some people will argue that income supplementation is not the best way to help the working poor. They are concerned that such a program would further exacerbate the disparity between the minimum wage and actual living costs, and that it would enable employers to abdicate their responsibility to pay a fair and reasonable wage.... Those who share this view are concerned that income supplementation will serve, in effect, to subsidize employers, not employees; they believe the preferred method of helping the working poor is to significantly increase the minimum wage.

"On the other hand, many people would strenuously oppose any move to increase the minimum wage substantially. They are concerned about a negative impact on overall employment."

Judge Thomson concludes: "Although a large body of empirical research exists, the evidence of job losses resulting from increased minimum wages is inconclusive."

If I had time, I would cite a study or questionnaire that was sent out by the Canadian

Federation of Independent Business which showed almost the same thing back in 1964, although members will find the arguments on exactly the opposite side of the fence.

This is particularly interesting to me, because in yet a third letter to Mr. Paciocco, the Minister of Labour wrote, on the day of the Thomson report's release, saying, "Study after study explains that the minimum wage is not an effective means of redistributing income." I do not know where the Minister of Labour got those figures. They did not agree with what Judge Thomson said the very day he issued the report.

This is an old, pro-business argument. It is an argument that in different forms has been used to argue against the minimum wage, equal pay for work of equal value, equal pay, occupational health and safety laws and even, if we go back a bit, medicare and pensions and many other of the social benefits we have won. Almost anything you can think of that increases the rights and benefits of working people has been opposed as in opposition to the views or the needs and benefits of capital in this province.

We are proud to quote one of the captains of modern capitalism, Henry Ford, who called that argument bunk at the time he brought in the big wage increase in the Ford plants. It goes as follows: If you raise minimum wage rates, then all of the other costs facing people at the low end of the economic spectrum go up as employers pass on their costs. In addition, some marginal employers will be forced out of business by such an increase and such workers will bear the brunt of these job losses.

The minister is convinced, even though Judge Thomson's review committee, which took more than a year and almost \$3 million to look into poverty-related issues, said the evidence is clearly inconclusive. Let me quote once more from the Thomson report, because I think it reveals a lot about the Minister of Labour and his attitudes and orientations. Having said that empirical research is inconclusive, the report continues:

"But even though the research is inconclusive, the business community is convinced that job losses result from increased minimum wages. This argument is advanced, in particular, by advocates of small business like the Canadian Federation of Independent Business." Members can look on page 290 of the report to see that. This tells me a lot about whom the minister and his government are listening to, and it sure is not the poor people in Ontario.

Here are a few other examples of what ordinary Ontarians working at the minimum wage have to say, some of the witnesses before the Thomson commission. A recipient said: "Manpower refuses to send me to any job under \$8 per hour because they say a family of six cannot live under it. I have had employers tell me the same thing."

The Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers said: "Many working women, particularly those attempting to get off social assistance, are paid minimum wage. As one mother expressed it, 'To receive \$4.35 per hour to work and to pay \$4 per hour for babysitting for two children is hopeless.'"

An anonymous witness said: "Even though I'm working, I'm making less than if I'd be on mother's allowance, which is very discouraging to me. I'm trying to raise four teenagers on a very small budget and I feel I'm sinking lower and lower all the time."

That is on page 291 of the Thomson report.

I want to speak for just a few minutes about Bill 156 and what it would do. The first important thing it would do is increase the minimum wage. Second, it would create a permanent relationship between the minimum wage and the average industrial wage in this province, so that the wages of our lowest-paid workers are no longer a matter of whim or paternalistic beneficence on the part of the minister of the day.

It does these things by proposing to set the minimum wage at 65 per cent of the average industrial wage for Ontario during the previous year. It excludes overtime pay but recognizes that under Ontario labour law the first 44 hours worked in a week are payable at base rates. That figure, calculated on the basis of Statscan figures for September of this year, would result in a wage rate of \$6.94 an hour. That is \$278 a week or \$14,435 a year. That would give a two-income family of four, the example I used before, 123 per cent of the poverty line in a Canadian metropolitan centre.

Let's be clear. That is hardly a luxury in relation to where those folks were a dozen years ago. It is not a hell of a lot, but it is a basis for some hope, I believe, and it is a basis on which self-reliance of ordinary working people can build. I think all of us agree the real answer is not the variety of welfare programs we have, but work for people at decent wages.

Last year when I asked, via Orders and Notices, for information from the Minister of Labour on those in receipt of the minimum wage in the province of Ontario—I will not re-read my

question; I was going to—I got back an answer. A couple of things are interesting about the information I received in reply from the ministry.

First, most of this material was produced by Statscan. We do not seem to have a handle on it here in Ontario.

Second, the Ministry of Labour data that were included contained data from 1979, which I guess is the last time there were extensive data and the ministry staff had a burning interest in this particular issue.

Third and most important, things have got much worse in the 1980s and remain worse despite all the efforts and all the public relations work that this government has done. Let me explain. In 1981, 6.5 per cent of Ontario's paid workers earned the minimum wage. Of those people, the paid workers, who numbered about 125,000, 59 per cent were women; fully 55 per cent of the full-time workers at minimum wage were women.

In 1984, after the recovery from the great recession was well under way, what had happened? Of Ontario's paid workers, 9.4 per cent are at the minimum wage, an increase in proportion of almost 50 per cent. Of course, it was a bigger economy in 1984 than in 1981, so we are talking about a total of 358,000 workers at the minimum wage.

Of that number, in 1984, 63 per cent of the full-time wage earners were women. In other words, in three years the proportion of the paid labour force earning the minimum wage increased by almost 50 per cent. Because the labour force has grown in the interim, the number of minimum-wage workers increased by 186 per cent and the share of the full-time minimum-wage workers accounted for by women increased by eight percentage points.

It is worth noting as well that this is what the minister provided when I asked for the most complete information to which he has access—1984 data from Statistics Canada—and it does not impress me very much in terms of our being on top of the particular issue.

Let me finish, if I can, with one of the letters I got from Genosio Paciocco. It is a letter I know he sent to all the Liberal members of this House. For reasons he explains—and I will not be partisan enough to put them down—he did not send it to the Tory members, although I think he should have. He sent me one too. It is a form letter. He said:

"Bob Mackenzie recently brought in a bill, Bill 156, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, which said, 'The minimum

hourly wage established under this act shall not be less than 65 per cent of the number obtained by dividing the industrial aggregate average weekly earnings (excluding overtime) for Ontario for the previous year, as published by Statistics Canada, by 44.'"

1020

Just remember what the Bible said in Proverbs 21:13: "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard." I could not end the comments in this Legislature any better than that particular remark from Genosio Paciocco.

We have an inadequate minimum wage in this province. We are going further behind. It is a disgrace to a province, which is Ontario. The scare stories will not work. The truth of the matter is that we give people some dignity. We have a much larger purchasing base which will offset some of the shortcomings we may have, and nobody in this party, certainly, would be against looking at ways and means of some phase-in or, in smaller communities, a temporary tax assistance for small business. All those things can be looked at, but this kind of direction has got to be taken, and has got to be taken soon, or we have no credibility in Ontario.

Mr. McLean: I am very pleased to have the opportunity of participating in the debate on this private member's bill, Bill 156, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act. Debate provides an excellent opportunity for the interchange of ideas, and I feel that this one has particular significance for those Ontario residents who are moderate-income earners.

Bill 156 seeks to establish a minimum wage which cannot be less than 65 per cent of the previous year's industrial aggregate average wage for Ontario, as published by Statistics Canada.

Ontario's minimum wage is currently \$4.75 per hour, based on the available Statistics Canada data for 1987. The formula spelled out in Bill 156 says this wage level would be increased to something in the order of \$6.74 per hour under the proposed legislation, an increase of some 41 per cent.

Each province in Canada established its own minimum wage level, and not always for the same reason. While some provinces seek to curb poverty among the working poor, others attempt to prevent unfair low-wage competition. Many attempt to prevent the exploitation of the unorganized nonunion sectors of workers. While the rationale behind minimum wages is very commendable, I caution members that the actual

impact of wage legislation often differs from its intended impact, producing many unintended side-effects.

Minimum-wage legislation is social legislation and it is all too often used as a quick-fix solution to a very serious problem in the marketplace. Competitive economic theory predicts that, in the long run, an increase in minimum wage levels will actually harm the employees it was designed to help through an adverse employment effect; that is, employment will be reduced relative to what it would have been in the absence of the minimum-wage increase. Firms will substitute other, relatively cheaper input for higher-priced labour. As well, output will decline due to decreased demand, a direct result of higher cost.

The magnitude of the adverse employment effect depends on the shape of the demand curve for labour. If demand for labour is high, the effect is small. Such might be the case for skilled tradesmen such as carpenters or electricians. These sectors, however, are not the ones most likely to be affected by minimum-wage legislation. Low-wage industries such as tourism and recreation, textiles and retail trade will be the ones where adverse effects are greatest. The demand for labour is low and will be decreased even further in the long run as firms substitute inputs and consumers look for cheaper substitutes.

Coming from a region in the province which relies upon tourism, I can tell members that labour accounts for a large portion of total cost in this industry, and competition is already fierce. Employers will not be able to observe the wage increases. Workers will be made to suffer, particularly the unskilled who are most vulnerable. Younger workers and women who need employment, even at low wages, as a means to acquire on-the-job training and labour market experience in order to move on to higher-paying jobs, will be most affected.

The benefits of wage increases to some workers must be weighed against the cost to reduce employment opportunities to others. The minimum-wage theory works well if all workers have the same levels of skills and productivity. However, this is not the case, and that is where the proposed legislation, I believe, is flawed.

The labour market in Ontario is composed of numerous submarkets for labour of different types, each with its own demand-and-supply curves. Skilled workers have a higher demand curve due to their higher productivity. Minimum-wage legislation has proved to be a useful policy

tool in certain key industries, such as the hospitality trade. Here, it has been used to subsidize the earnings of workers who would otherwise rely solely upon tips and gratuities as income.

The wage which equates supply and demand for labour will be greater for the skilled than the unskilled worker. Establishing a minimum wage of approximately \$6.74 per hour for skilled workers will have little, if any, effect, because this wage level is lower than the average wage for the industry. Establishing a new minimum wage of approximately \$6.74 per hour in the unskilled sectors of the labour market will harm the very workers targeted for assistance, because this wage level will be greater than the industry average.

Two things will happen. Employers will be forced to lay off workers they could have hired at a lower wage level. As well, other workers will be attracted by the above-average wage offering. Supply of labour will greatly exceed demand and the employers will find themselves in a situation where they are able to pick and choose among the most desirable workers where they are in an excessive supply of demand. Employers will naturally single out the most productive workers in the unskilled labour pool.

It is true that these workers who retain their jobs will be better off with the higher wage. However, no recognition is given to those unskilled workers who will lose their jobs when the surplus labour, the least skilled, least productive and least desirable workers in the eyes of the employer, are left out in the cold by Bill 156. These are the very individuals our party is seeking to help and whose interest will not be overlooked.

Supporters of Bill 156 argue that factors exist which might offset the adverse employment effect. They argue that an increase in demand for a product or an increase in the price of substitute products will spur the demand for labour and thus cancel the negative side-effects of this legislation.

However, it is wrong to legislate on expected events. Proponents of Bill 156 argue that employers could utilize cost-saving measures and thereby reduce the need to lay off workers. However, industries such as tourism and recreation have already exhausted all possible efficiencies as a result of extremely high competition in the marketplace. Others argue that employers will be able to absorb wage increases without reducing employment. However, the employers most likely to be affected by Bill 156 are those

operating with tight profit margins in a low-wage industry.

Farm workers hired during the harvest season are but a typical example. Produce prices dictate the wage pool, over which a farmer has no control. Driving up the price of seasonal help will force the farmer to cut back on the number of employees he or she hires. I want to elaborate on that, because I own a farm and I have hired summer help at the minimum wage in order to give young children an opportunity to paint a fence or to clean up, just something for them to do. If a minimum wage is not what the farmer can afford to pay, then those people will not get a job.

The same choices will face companies seeking to hire summer students. Numerous studies have been documented that clearly show a substantial adverse employment effect upon teenagers, the residents of this province who want and need valuable work experience. As legislators, we must not discourage these individuals in their formative years.

I urge the members to show appreciation for the harmful side-effects which will result when Bill 156 is made law. Its insensitivity to the levels of supply and demand for labour in each sector of the Ontario economy—and we cannot ignore the specific needs of each region—cannot be tolerated. The negative impacts of this proposed legislation will fall, unfortunately, upon unskilled workers, who are most in need of work experience. The strength of Ontario lies in its workers and we cannot enact legislation which ignores the fundamental principle.

1030

I recall the member who has introduced this bill speaking about \$8 an hour. I believe that for anybody who has his own apartment and has to keep his own family, \$8 an hour is certainly hard to live on. We on the farm have paid \$10 an hour to get summer help—good help, that is.

The problem I see with this legislation is that in the tourist industry, where one relies on tips and gratuities, there has to be a minimum wage that would be acceptable to that industry. I am well aware of the situation. I have many people who come into my constituency office who are making \$5 or \$5.75 per hour, which is unacceptable, as far as I am concerned, if somebody has to make a living.

I think what we have got to be doing is educating our industry and saying, "Look, in order to get good help, you've got to pay a decent wage." But I have a problem when we start changing the minimum wage, which may not help those people who really need it, such as

those young people I was talking about who need that summer job, who need a part-time job. I think we have to start there, and I thank members for the opportunity to speak on this private member's bill.

Mrs. Sullivan: I am pleased that the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) has put forward this bill, Bill 156, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act. There is substance to the bill, and a debate of substance will be a relief after the tactical debates we have been occupied with for the past several days.

I do not concur with the specifics of the member's recommendations, but I do appreciate that this bill provides an opportunity to review the minimum wage, which impacts on thousands of people in the province.

Women, as you know, Mr. Speaker, have a particular interest in minimum-wage laws. If we can walk back a moment in history, we know that the first minimum wages, in New Zealand, Australia, Western Europe and then finally Canada, applied only to women and children, most of whom were employed in sweat work in unconscionable conditions for salaries that barely provided bread for the table.

Less than 70 years ago, and in many of our parents' memories, indeed in many of their work experiences, Ontario issued its first minimum-wage order. That order specified that no experienced female over 18 years was to be paid less than \$12 a week; inexperienced and younger women were subject to a lesser income formula.

The first minimum-wage orders were industry-specific: laundries, restaurants, hotels and certain jobs in manufacturing. Frankly, when we look at where our minimum-wage earners are today, we see that similar occupations head the list.

In a quite singular reversal of women's employment equality trends, the move to cover the male gender under minimum-wage laws moved slowly. In Ontario, it was not until the 1960s that men were finally included in minimum-wage legislation.

Let's look, as the member opposite has, at who receives the minimum wage today. In 1984 a Statistics Canada survey estimated that 62 per cent of general minimum-wage earners were women and 60 per cent were under 25. More than 40 per cent worked full-time and more than 20 per cent were the sole income earners in their family. For the most part, they work in the food and accommodation industries, in the retail trade and in the personal services sector. There has not

been much change since the First World War in where these people are employed.

Last year the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto released another study of minimum-wage earners. It reported that fully 15 per cent of Ontario workers, including full-time and part-time workers, students, who can often, but not always, depend on their parents and families as well, and sole-income family heads earn the minimum wage. Judge Thomson's data, to which the member from Hamilton East has referred, underline the characteristics of the minimum-wage earner. They form a significant part of Ontario's working poor and their circumstances are distressing to all of us.

The question becomes one of how we tackle the issue, how we as legislators can stop being tolerant of poverty in our midst and what actions we can take not only to minimize poverty but to lead to its elimination.

The member has a proposal that is contained in Bill 156. The bill is remarkably similar in intent to one put forward in 1977 by Stephen Lewis when he was leader of the New Democratic Party and Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Lewis's bill called for a 51 per cent increase in the minimum wage, and the bill of the member for Hamilton East, when the calculations are done, calls for the same thing.

So that members will fully understand the implications of the bill, I would like to review these calculations. The member has proposed that the minimum wage be indexed to 65 per cent of the average industrial wage. Today in Ontario the average industrial wage is \$484.15. Based on a 44-hour work week, this would translate to an average hourly wage of \$11. The bill proposes that the minimum wage be pegged at 65 per cent of the average industrial wage or \$7.15 an hour.

I would like to go back to when Mr. Lewis proposed his bill in 1977. At that time, the minimum wage in Ontario was \$2.65 an hour, lower than in any other jurisdiction in Canada except Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. The government of the day was quite satisfied with holding to that low rung of the pay ladder. Today, bolder steps in the climb up have been taken. Ontario's minimum wage has been increased to \$4.75 an hour and the government has committed to review that every year. The last increase in the minimum wage places Ontario, along with Quebec, with a minimum wage that is the highest of any province in Canada and one of the highest in North America. Those steps were necessary, proper, timely and fair.

The member believes that a larger stride in minimum wage is the answer to the basic problem of having people who work but who are poor. I admire his intent, but I disagree with his strategy. The member is well meaning, but his approach could lead those who are least able to protect themselves into economic oblivion, and this is the ground on which I must disagree with my colleague opposite.

The government is now reviewing the eloquent report of Judge Thomson and is looking at that report as a whole piece. I should remind the member opposite that it is not just the Canadian Federation of Independent Business which has concerns about raising the minimum wage to the extent he has put forward. The social planning council's report, which I spoke about a moment ago, talked of some of the jeopardy associated with precipitate moves in minimum-wage legislation.

I would like to quote from that report. It says, "Given the concentration of minimum-wage occupations in particular industries, any decision to substantially improve the adequacy of the minimum wage would have to be developed in conjunction with other programs to reduce the impact of such changes in terms of productivity and employment in these industries."

The Macdonald commission also cited research which suggested that a 10 per cent increase in the minimum wage would result in at least a 0.2 per cent rise in unemployment. I remind the House that the member is calling for a 51 per cent increase in the minimum wage. Based on conclusions from these well-considered studies, in the current economy that means a one per cent increase in unemployment, a loss of 50,000 jobs in Ontario and, once again, women and young people would be disproportionately affected. In a less vibrant economy than we are experiencing today, the effect would be even more devastating and it would be the poor who would be most affected.

It is not only studies that provide the evidence. There are other jurisdictions that have made the experiment the member is calling for and their experience must give us pause. France in the early 1980s comes to mind. In France, between 1981 and 1982, the minimum wage was increased by 29 per cent. This bill calls for an increase of 51 per cent. The evidence shows that business stopped hiring workers, unemployment increased and, as a consequence, the government was forced to introduce tax cuts for business to stimulate hiring. That proved to be such a failure

that the government finally had to abandon the experiment.

1040

Along with my colleagues on this side of the House, I believe we should be fighting the root causes of poverty in our workforce. Improving skills, expanding training opportunities and enabling our workers to participate in a changing economic and industrial environment are priorities which are vital and which are sound economically. That is why we are pursuing them with vigour and determination. The minimum wage must continue to provide a wage floor so that people who are unorganized, unskilled and disadvantaged will not be exploited. The minimum wage is one element of reducing poverty in our workforce, but it is not the only one.

I admire the intent of the bill, but because I do not believe it will work, I regret that I cannot support it.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am very pleased to be able to speak on this bill from my good colleague the member for Hamilton East, a member who over the years has stood out in this Legislature for his work on behalf of the workers of Ontario, a member who has been willing to take stands that are controversial at times and that the other parties in particular would have nothing to do with, stands that are in the long-run, best interests of our province, of the workers of this province, and certainly in this case, of the working poor of Ontario.

We face a situation in Ontario where the working poor and poverty in general is a growing problem affecting a greater and greater portion of our society. We have a situation where we have an issue that is a controversial issue in terms of the business community, but not a controversial one in terms of people on the street. People know that wages, in terms of those at the bottom end of work opportunities in our society, are heavily impacted by the level of the minimum wage. There is no single initiative that could do more to improve the standard of living of those people than to take action on the minimum wage.

This is an issue where the business sector should be taking responsible action on its own, but in fact, over the years, it has not and we see a growing gap between what average industrial workers are making and what people are making in many of the service sectors, in smaller businesses and in the kinds of work that major corporations have been contracting out to small operations. Those businesses have been taking advantage of people with lower skills and lack of experience, young people, and particularly

women in the workforce, and paying what are really unconscionable levels of income, levels which do not even allow families to live at a level we view as a minimum, meagre poverty level in our society today.

We have in this Bill 156 an opportunity to move towards a fair level of income, a minimum wage which has been set in the bill at 65 per cent of the average industrial wage. That is certainly not an unrealistic target, one that has been achievable in other major industrial democracies of the western world, and a target that has been achieved with much lower levels of unemployment than we have here in Canada today. We have a situation that I would compare with, let's say, a look at Sweden. I was in Sweden just over a year ago and talked with top economists in that country about what is happening in the economy, about the levels of unemployment there and what type of minimum wage they have in Sweden.

In Sweden today, they have a society which is far fairer than ours in terms of wage levels, one in which everyone is given the opportunity to raise his family at a decent level of income. They have, effectively, a minimum wage that is approximately 70 per cent of the average industrial wage in Sweden today. They have managed to do that without the kind of economic scares we get from the Conservatives and from their business friends in the Liberal Party about the disastrous scenario of lost jobs and disastrous consequences for the working poor. They have an unemployment rate in Sweden today of 1.7 per cent, the second lowest in the western world today. The only one that is lower is Norway's, where there is a Social Democratic government as well and a similar policy of fair and equitable wages for everyone in their society.

The consequences of a move towards this kind of wage level surely has some impact in terms of redistributing the types of jobs that are available, but how do companies adjust to that? They adjust by ensuring that the jobs that are there are good jobs and that the workers there are trained and skilled. Those countries have programs in place to ensure that people have the skills that are needed in the workforce. Everyone is doing productive work and producing much higher value products than we typically are.

They have much less emphasis on the low-wage service sector than we have, but they still have their McDonald's restaurants. McDonald's in Sweden can pay a decent wage and still manage to sell hamburgers on the streets. Why do we have to have one of the most wealthy corporations in North America here in Canada

paying a wage that is unconscionable and totally inadequate to support any type of family? As a consequence, we see only youth working in McDonald's. There are very few people trying to support a family in that type of operation, at a corporation that is very successful, very wealthy and could pay those kinds of wages.

That same thing applies to other restaurants, other areas of the service sector and other small businesses in Sweden as well. They know that if they are going to be in business, they have to pay a fair and decent wage.

As a government, we can stipulate what the rules for the operation of business are going to be and people have to follow them. Sure, if one company or one small business today had to increase its wages considerably, it would be put at a tremendous economic disadvantage compared to its competitors. We are not asking for a disadvantage for one of them. We are asking that everyone in that competitive marketplace pay a fair and decent wage.

That does not change the competitive balance between those businesses. What will they have to do? Well, perhaps they may have to increase the prices of their hamburgers a few cents, but the people who can afford to go and buy their meals outside of their homes and go into a restaurant or buy other services, those who are making decent levels of income, should surely be able to pay a few cents additional for the products they buy in order to ensure that those people who are providing the service and delivering those products are able to have a decent standard of living themselves.

I find it quite disturbing that this government has twisted and distorted this particular issue. I would like to quote, in particular, a comment in response to a letter from one of my constituents, Genosio Paciocco, to whom the member for Hamilton East referred several times and who has done tremendous work on this issue. He wrote to the Liberal members and in particular got a response from the Minister of Labour. The Minister of Labour, in his excuse for not taking any action on bringing the minimum wage to a decent level, stated that study after study explains that the minimum wage is not an effective means of redistributing income.

What a totally irresponsible statement by the Minister of Labour, coming out on exactly the same day that we had the issuing of the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee, chaired by Judge Thomson, the most comprehensive, most expensive study ever done by the province of Ontario on the issue of poverty. It

was issued on the same day as that statement by the minister. Right in the Thomson report itself, we get the contradictory evidence; in fact, this major study endorses a major increase in the minimum wage in Ontario.

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I read from this study: "To compound the problem"—of the working poor—"the purchasing power of the minimum wage has decreased by 22 per cent since 1975." He goes on: "A program of income supplementation is not a substitute for a fair minimum-wage policy. On the contrary, the two are contradictory. The introduction of income supplementation must be accompanied by an increase in the minimum wage."

The Thomson study is calling for a major increase in the minimum wage. We think it should be one related to the average industrial wage that is paid in this province. We think that as a society we can afford to do that. We believe we owe that to the people of this province.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I had not intended to speak on this resolution. The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) was slated to speak, but he is tied up on House leaders' business due to the unforeseen circumstances that happened in the House in the last few days. However, I would like to make a few comments. I certainly concur with the member for Hamilton East in his contention that the minimum wage is very low. Anyone would accept that proposition. It is extremely difficult to understand how anyone could possibly live on those wages.

I do feel that we have to take into consideration some type of a system to make sure that people are not caught at a minimum wage level for many years, as the member has brought to our attention. It is an acceptable level for training inexperienced people as a beginning. It is maybe not too bad for young people who are getting into a trade or something of this nature. But it certainly should not be something that someone has to live with for 10, 20 or 30 years.

However, I would like to take the other side of the coin, as well. I have had over 30 years' experience in a small business, in the retail sector. I know that it would be next to impossible for the many hundreds of thousands of small businesses that we have in this province to pay the type of minimum wage that members suggest.

Just by way of a personal experience, I had the opportunity yesterday, when I was visiting Welland, to drop in and meet Tony the tailor. Tony has been in business for 25 or 26 years. He brings his lunch to his place of business because

he cannot afford to hire someone to help him in his place of business. He cannot afford the minimum wage as it is today because there is not enough profit in the business he is in. There are many retail operations in this province that are suffering the same problem. There are not the big dollars out there that people think there are.

The member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) made the comment that you simply increase the price a few cents. You cannot pay \$8 or \$10 an hour on a few cents, so you have to increase it by a few dollars. Then you lose business. In a very short time, that business is out of business. That is the type of problem that many of our small retail businesses would face. If the member for Sault Ste. Marie does not believe that, he should drop in and visit a few of them. There are hundreds of them in the downtown sector of Toronto that are barely existing, and many in the rural parts of this province.

I might also say, as I come from a riding that is basically rural, that there are many of our farmers who are barely existing now. They are financially in trouble. To suggest to them that it would only make a few dollars' difference if they paid extra to the help that they need—they cannot afford to pay what they are paying now. They cannot pay anything more. They have financial problems themselves. Many of them are not making the minimum wage. Many of them are losing money. In a matter of years, many of them will not be there. To sit in this assembly and suggest that they spend more money just does not make sense.

I feel it is a difficult problem, one we should work on. We should constantly strive to increase the minimum wage, to increase assistance to the working poor.

At the same time, we have to consider the fact that many people of the likes of my friend Tony the tailor are not receiving any assistance. He mentioned to me the fact that in 26 or 27 years in business, he has never received a single cent of support from any level of government, and he does not look forward through the next three years to receiving very much from this Liberal administration. He was very doubtful how he was going to vote until I convinced him that there is a better way.

I think I will leave it at that and let the Liberal government answer this very important issue that my good friend the member for Hamilton East has raised.

Mr. Kozyra: I am pleased to rise and take part in this debate because I am concerned with the question of poverty in our society of plenty, as

are all of my colleagues on this side of the House.

Mr. Dietsch: And over here.

Mr. Kozyra: And over there, lest we forget.

But I am disturbed by those persons who claim to offer a simple fix-all solution with no regard for the consequences of their actions. There are few better examples of this kind of thinking than the bill we are now debating.

It is worth noting that last year in the United States, Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative Augustus Hawkins cosponsored a bill which sought to index the US federal minimum wage at a rate of 50 per cent—not the 65 per cent being proposed here today, but 50 per cent—relative to the average industrial wage. This proposal could not even get the support of Democrats and had to be dropped early in the debate. The US Congress has not only rejected indexation, but the Kennedy-Hawkins bill in total has been withdrawn from the agenda. The result is that the US minimum wage will remain at US\$3.35 for at least the near future.

If we look at our main competitors, specifically the US border states, we find that most of them maintain a minimum wage of US\$3.35 or about \$4.08 in Canadian funds. Ohio, which is a major industrial state not too distant from Ontario, has a minimum wage rate of \$2.30 or about \$2.80 Canadian. Generally speaking, Ontario's minimum wage of \$4.75 an hour is about 15 per cent higher than that found in the nearby US border states. Our minimum wage is, with Quebec's, the highest of any province in Canada. Our commitment to an annual review has in fact restored the minimum wage to a level, relative to the average industrial wage, which we have not seen since 1981.

We may not want to make too great an issue out of these differences, but at the same time we cannot ignore them. These are real differences we must consider in developing Ontario's minimum-wage policy.

At the heart of this bill is a very well-intended objective. The honourable member who introduced this bill genuinely believes his bill will go a long way towards solving the problem of poverty in Ontario. That is indeed a very noble objective and no one on this side of the House stands in opposition to that goal. However, I do believe that while the intent is well meaning, the method proposed could have serious negative effects on the very people it seeks to help. The honourable member opposite must know and understand that addressing the problems of the working poor requires a comprehensive strategy

that deals with the question of poverty in its economic and social breadth.

The recent Thomson report, which reviewed the social assistance system and the broader question of income distribution, contains significant recommendations that the government is committed to review. One such proposal contained in the report, a proposal members can be assured we are analysing in every detail, is that dealing with the income supplement for low-wage earners. This supplement would equal \$150 per month per person or \$300 per month for a couple, providing both of these people are working full-time or part-time at the proposed minimum wage of \$5.86 per hour. The income supplement would continue to be paid until an employment income of \$945 per month is achieved. At this point, the supplement would be gradually reduced until an income of \$1,245 per month was achieved.

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I want to draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that this report recognizes that the minimum wage itself is but one factor in the equation and is not, should not and, indeed, cannot be the sole instrument, otherwise the employment effects may be significant. More accurately, there would be disemployment effects. Virtually every economist agrees that such substantial increases as being proposed will cost some of the working poor their jobs.

Who would be the people most affected by a dramatic increase in the minimum wage, such as is being proposed today? It will be the young people, young people with little work experience, young people who require on-the-job training before they can move on to command a more effective wage.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up. I am sorry.

Mr. Mackenzie: As much as I only have a minute and 10 seconds, I will just say, first, with regard to the response from my Tory colleagues, when the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) said that the minimum wage had to be acceptable to the industry involved, he said it all and, as far as I am concerned, has destroyed his position in terms of fighting for people because I have never seen industry yet promote increased minimum wages.

I am surprised at the member for Halton Centre (Ms. Oddie Munro) and more than a little disturbed. Her arguments, and I wish she would go back to some of the previous debates, are almost right out of the Fraser Institute and are the same kind of pro-business arguments we have

had on this particular issue since I have been in this Legislature. Her party has been the government now for three years and we have gone backwards, not forwards, in terms of the purchasing power of the minimum wage. We have gone backwards, not forwards, in terms of the percentage of the poverty level these people are at. If we really believe that work at a decent wage, and that has to be part of the equation, is the answer and not the welfare system, then what is the government going to do about it? It has done nothing up until now. I have to say that the answers do not give me much hope even in terms of Judge Thomson's comments, which were pretty direct in wanting \$6, although phased in, as the minimum wage. I do not have any confidence the government will even go that way considering the remarks I have heard from the member for Halton Centre. It is going to be interesting.

GARBAGE RECYCLING PROGRAMS ACT

Mrs. Marland moves second reading of Bill 89, An Act requiring municipalities to establish Programs for the Recycling of Garbage.

The Deputy Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes to make her presentation, of which she may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Mrs. Marland: I do indeed count it a real privilege to stand in this House today and present my Bill 89 for second reading. I think that the most exciting part of presenting this bill in the Legislature today is the fact that I know it will have to be unanimously supported by all three parties because it is the direction of the future in terms of waste management.

The purpose of the bill is to require all municipalities to establish and implement programs for the separation at source and recycling of garbage. These programs would be similar to those which we have now had for three years in the city of Mississauga, which involve the education of the public in what the program actually involves and the direction on the use of receptacles and why we should all be interested in recycling.

The most serious part of recycling, of course, is to reduce the volumes of garbage that have to be treated either through landfill or other forms of disposal, but one of the spinoffs we have talked about in my municipality is that the more we recycle, the more we reduce the cost, through our property taxes, of the treatment of garbage and waste.

It is encouraging to know that every day in this Legislature we hear the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) talk about the need to expand the blue box program. The minister says it both in this House and elsewhere. At this point I want to quote from a speech he made only a few days ago. The minister was speaking to the Recycling Council of Ontario, at their annual conference on October 24, 1988. The minister said:

"It is waste, and a waste disposal problem, only when we miss the point that garbage is in fact a valuable resource.

"This lack of understanding is coming back to haunt us with a vengeance. Overflowing landfills. Contaminated groundwaters. Incinerator-generated air pollution. And all in the cause of using limited resources once, and then throwing them out!"

This is a constructive bill which is designed to help municipalities get involved. We must look at the issue of recycling as a province-wide need.

I would like to tell members that in the city of Mississauga, our Laidlaw garbage trucks have a very significant sign on the side of them. The sign says, "We are partners in recycling."

Some municipalities may worry about being too small to have a recycling program. The point is that, as with other areas of jurisdiction, small municipalities can get together with others.

I could give an example that is existing today in the United States. Apparently in Hamburg, which has a population of 10,500 people and is in New York state, near Buffalo, they began recycling in 1981 in an effort to save money. They saved only US\$600 in the first year because of startup costs and because the paper market was worth "diddley," as the Hamburg public works director, Gerald Knowles, said. But four years later, by 1985, they were saving \$30,000 a year, partly because of the dumping fees they no longer had to pay to garbage-collecting companies. So obviously the size of the municipality is not a problem.

The minister, in another one of his speeches, indicated: "The province generates enough municipal garbage to fill trucks stretching from Windsor to Whitehorse. Add the commercial and light industrial waste going to our landfill sites and incinerators and the lineup doubles to occupy both sides of the road." He continued, saying, "Through recycling we will eliminate 8,000 trucks from this imaginary highway next year."

What does this actually mean in figures? I would like to tell members. To reduce 8,000 trucks, but from how many? I calculated how many were on his original highway and that

figure is 435,468, carrying, according to the minister's figure, 2,170,340 tons. The minister estimated that reduction through the current recycling effort would be 8,000 trucks. That leaves 427,468 trucks still on that highway, with a reduction in actual figures of only 40,000 tons. A 40,000-ton reduction is only 1.8 per cent.

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So, obviously, while 8,000 is a good start, it is not enough if the minister believes that recycling will solve the waste management crisis. I do believe he is committed on a personal basis, and that is the only answer he is giving. That is why there is all the more reason to adopt my bill. About 1.8 per cent of our garbage is recycled. That leaves 98.2 per cent which still has to go to landfill or incineration.

If we are really concerned about the environment, then sending our garbage to American facilities to be burned is not an environmentally intelligent or responsible solution. We cannot control our immediate environment. What we do, we do for the global effort.

I would like to give members some examples of the success of recycling in other countries. We have an example in Austria, where they have now achieved 65 per cent. In Wilton, New Hampshire, in the United States, they have achieved 45 per cent; in Freiburg, West Germany, they have achieved 35 per cent; and in three short years, my own municipality of Mississauga has already achieved 15 per cent.

We must admit that the waste crisis is one that must be solved by all levels of government. The member for Brampton North (Mr. McClelland), who is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment, said in his speech during the emergency debate, "The challenge for all levels of government is to fulfil their responsibilities, to work together to solve" the waste management pressures. This is a departure from the minister's response that it is purely a municipal problem. Obviously, it is not one level of government's responsibility.

I think it is interesting when we now see programs starting all around the province with assistance from the government. Some have gone further than the original description of what recycling programs could be and how they could be managed.

I would like to give members an example of what has happened in Midland, Ontario. The 15,000 residents of the Georgian Bay community of Midland must begin recycling household garbage by September 1 or face fines under the first mandatory recycling bylaw passed by an

urban centre in Ontario. Is that not interesting? To this point, recycling has been a service provided by some municipalities in Ontario, but not as a mandatory program. It is not mandatory that we use the boxes, that we as individuals be part of this program.

An example was given at a recycling conference that I attended, and it was another municipality in New Hampshire in the United States. They have a very blatant system that inhibits everyone who would try to go against their desire to have successful, complete recycling programs. In that part of that particular state, if you put your garbage out at the end of the driveway and there are obviously recyclable items in it—hard objects, bottles, cans and so forth—they simply do not pick it up. They slap a big yellow sticker on the side of the garbage saying: "This contains recyclable materials. If it is not sorted next week, we will not pick it up then either."

The amazing fact is that the neighbours, of course, are inhibited by the fact that at the end of the day their garbage is still sitting at the end of the driveway, now with the addition of a bright sticker. So they are not taking part as responsible citizens in reducing the costs of waste management in their municipality, nor are they taking part from the standpoint of protection of the environment.

I am not suggesting in this bill that recycling be mandatory around the province within municipalities yet. I think it is important, first of all, as my bill suggests, that it become mandatory that municipalities give the option to their residents to take part in a recycling program, because the truth of the matter is that once people become familiar with recycling as part of their weekly or twice-weekly garbage pickup, it just becomes a way of life.

Somebody has made a number of comments about the necessity of this bill. I would like, just for a moment, to address that. I feel that this bill is necessary because, at the moment, the current government in Ontario is supporting recycling as a program policy of its ministry. I do not doubt and I have not questioned the thrust of that program currently in the ministry. Obviously, with the cost-sharing of setting up the program, it is well recognized and well established that the current government is supporting recycling.

The only problem I have and why I feel this has to be legislated is that we know, should the Minister of the Environment lose at the poker game for funds at the cabinet table at any time,

this program could quickly and easily be replaced in priority at some time in the future.

It requires legislation to guarantee this one aspect to protect our environment and reduce our costs of handling waste in this province. We know that the government does not have a money tree at Queen's Park, because we are the providers of the funds that any government allocates to programs. We also recognize that priorities of governments can change. We feel, at this time, it is an ideal opportunity for this government to commit to legislation a program which it has demonstrated it obviously believes in.

I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Thank you. The member for Brampton North.

Mr. McClelland: Mr. Speaker, might I take this opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues, particularly in private members' hour, to congratulate you and welcome you to the seat this morning. Congratulations.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much.

Mr. McClelland: My colleague from Mississauga South has talked this morning about waste management and garbage. It is very clear to members of this House and the people of this province that we recognize that we cannot treat garbage as waste any more. It is, in fact, a resource, and we have to begin to treat it as such. She talked about our government's approach to recycling and said that it is the only approach. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, members of this House and the province, that it is not the only way of dealing with garbage; it is a way. It is an important way and one that we are committed to.

More important, we need to change our attitudes. We have to change the way we think about waste and to see it as a resource. Recycling and reuse are two very key elements of our government's approach to dealing with this problem.

Our primary response must be to reduce the amount of waste we produce in the first place. Failure to do so will come back to haunt us. Failure to implement the four Rs of waste management will leave us with a legacy that we have heard about and that, in fact, we are suffering at the present time—overflow in land sites, polluted air, the problems that are associated with incineration. How do we deal with those?

Recycling in all sectors of society must become the fundamental basis upon which comprehensive waste management is undertaken in Ontario, recognizing, as I said earlier, that we must first reduce the waste that we are producing.

We have, as a province and as a society, made a substantial start. The number of municipalities that are now served with blue box curbside service is 92, a remarkable improvement from 1985, and that momentum keeps building. Metropolitan Toronto, with its five cities, is joining the growing number of participants.

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Another useful indicator of what this government is doing in terms of recycling is the commitment of our province's and the people of this province's financial resources to waste management and recycling. From \$750,000 in 1985 this government has increased the investment tenfold. We have spoken about that in this House before. We have doubled the funds for industrial recycling to \$2.5 million.

But funding is not the only indicator. We have other programs that we have heard about and our minister has spoken about to the people of the province and members of this House. Our household waste program has in three years grown to involve 53 municipalities, 12 of which have set up permanent depots for people to bring in their hazardous discards. Permanent depots are the way to go and must be introduced throughout this province.

All of us in this House know that these programs are in fact producing results, and worthwhile results. In early November of this year, the symbolic one-millionth blue box will go into household use in Ontario. A lot has been said in this House by the member opposite, that this represents only one tenth of the waste stream or potentially one tenth of the waste stream. Yet I would say to my friends that this one tenth is a great start, a significant start. That is what we are targeting to in many communities.

It is a first target level. We have set other targets. We have the Recycling Advisory Committee, which we know about, for the soft drink industry. We expect to see the next target level, of 1.2 million boxes, achieved shortly after our one-million level. That will represent 60 per cent of the households in Ontario.

This government has developed successful recycling programs and has actively increased the amount of funding available for recycling; something, I might add, the third party failed to do while it was in power. We are looking at ways to expand that program as well.

This government, though, is looking at ways of moving beyond the blue box program. The minister has announced that he intends to expand the scope of the Recycling Advisory Committee, will broaden its mandate, will study ways to

expand the range of materials and packaging beyond those that are now recycled. The ministry waste management staff are working on a long-term waste management strategy. This strategy is directed at diverting 50 per cent of our waste from disposal as well as reducing the environmental impact of garbage and waste disposal.

Our government has a philosophical approach that I would suggest is somewhat different. We believe that if we treat people in other levels of government as if they are what they ought to be and help them become what they ought to be, that in fact will happen. When people are highly motivated, when municipalities and other levels of government are highly motivated, it is easy to accomplish what other people say is impossible. At the same time, when people are not highly motivated, it is impossible to accomplish those things which should be easy. We are committed to motivation and working in harmony and concert with our friends and with the people in municipal governments across this province.

The development of stricter standards, the growth and enhancement of recycling programs and markets and a growing public demand for well-thought-out, sane waste management have established a momentum in this province, and we must see that this momentum continues.

No one can disagree with the member's basic premise behind the bill and what she wants to accomplish with that bill. It is laudable and it makes sense in terms of its premise that recycling be enhanced and encouraged in our province. The question is, how do we do that? How can that best be achieved?

The bill proposed mandatory recycling for Ontario municipalities. Those members who are interested in athletics will know who the late coach Vince Lombardi was. Vince Lombardi said that anybody could light a fire underneath a player, but it took a truly great leader to light a fire in people's hearts. That symbolizes and says in many ways what our minister and our government want to do.

We do not want to dictate and tell municipalities that they must do what they already want to do. We want to encourage and foster that momentum that is already under way and light a fire within the hearts of the people of this province: the young children, the parents, the people who have a vested interest in the future of what this province will be.

This government's approach to date has been voluntary. The variety of positive, successful funding initiatives has been the cold, harsh

reality in part of municipalities recognizing that it costs too much not to deal with waste as a resource. Through public pressure for responsible action and through encouraging that the primary—not purely, as my friend said—but the primary responsibility rests with the municipalities and will remain so, we will continue to work and see that municipalities continue to respond as they have done to date.

Municipalities know they cannot expect to manage their own waste successfully unless they implement the four Rs of waste management. We have heard that before, but it is a message that has to be heard again until it is understood by all citizens of this province: reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. Burning and burying are not the answers.

The people of Ontario have valid questions about the environmental soundness, health risks and rapidly escalating costs associated with incinerators and landfills. Municipalities are responding. They are setting higher tipping fees, as much as \$65 per ton to reflect the cost of that. Municipalities are actively promoting recycling, not only for their citizens, but also for industry and commercial entities within their communities.

Municipalities currently have the ability to make recycling mandatory. They already have that ability through the passing of municipal bylaws, and my friend has made reference to that. Midland, for example, as she referred to, has passed a bylaw. This has the benefit of solving the real problem, not just to bring new municipalities on stream with recycling, but to ensure that existing programs have and will continue to have a high rate of public participation.

We have provided adequate funding as a government. We are working with municipalities and while public pressure continues to grow, we will see municipalities respond. This government believes in working together with municipalities to promote recycling. It is growing in momentum and it does not require a law to mandate.

Our policy flows from the premise that men and women and boys and girls across this province want to do a good job in waste management, and we will provide them with the proper leadership to do so. We intend to continue to lead and work co-operatively. I find it exciting. If my friend opposite finds it less exciting to be working in a co-operative spirit, I am sorry, but we will continue to work in a co-operative spirit, to work together with municipal-

ities and do what we feel is the appropriate thing: provide the leadership that is required.

We will not be supporting this bill because of the mandatory aspect of it. The late President Eisenhower said that leadership is the art of getting people to do something that they know is right because they want to do it. This is the type of leadership our minister has provided and our government has provided and we will continue to do so. It will not be in the context of this bill, while recognizing that the premise and the objective of the bill are very laudable.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Mrs. Grier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to congratulate you on your new position.

We in this party support the legislation the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) has put before the House today. I think that member deserves congratulations not only for having brought forward this legislation, but for also having been part of a municipal council which, in fact, got into a blue box recycling program well ahead of many others in this province. As somebody who was on a municipal council in Metro, I never cease to be ashamed of the fact that Metro did not. I know Mississauga was not the first but it was certainly one of many that were early into the game, which has now become commonplace.

Everybody is saying they have to get blue boxes. We have heard from the member for Brampton North the catalogue of initiatives and encouragement and incentives that have been put forward by the Ministry of the Environment, all very worthwhile, all very laudable and commendable but not enough and not moving fast enough.

We heard in the emergency debate in this House last week that even if blue boxes became common all across the province and the target of 1.6 million was met by the end of 1989, we would only be picking up by that method 7.5 per cent of the households' solid waste. That is not going to come to grips with the problem we face.

The blue box program and the incentives and initiatives of the ministry as currently proposed are not dealing with the whole question of organic waste. The pilot project in Guelph is very desirable and I am sure will produce some useful results; but I would submit that the results could well have been calculated by looking at similar projects in other jurisdictions and that we did not need to wait for that pilot project to get on with some composting on a larger scale in Ontario.

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We have seen no initiatives from this government with respect to either recycling or reduction of wastes from the commercial sector and nothing to cut down on packaging, which is a major contributor to the solid waste problem that we have. Of the municipally disposed waste, 20 per cent comes from packaging, and we have not seen anything by this government to cut down on that.

We have not seen any broad initiatives to encourage recycling by large apartment buildings or even small apartment buildings, other than, again, some small pilot projects. We see no moves by this government to force all new apartment buildings to be constructed in such a way that they lend themselves to recycling programs.

We see development occurring all across the province, with apartment buildings being engineered exactly as they have been in the past, so that the owners, the tenants and the occupants can then say, "It's too difficult to recycle and to separate in buildings of this size." We have to start, as the Brundtland Commission said, as the federal National Task Force on the Environment and Economy said and as this Minister of the Environment has said, to integrate economic and environmental decisions at every level and in every facet of the decisions that we take. We have not seen that happening on the part of this government.

Many of the programs that are in place have in fact been crisis-driven. The mandatory recycling in Midland happened because of the lack of any place to dump its garbage. It is the same, with all due respect to the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham), in southwest Oxford, where they had a big fight over a landfill and got into mandatory recycling. Here in Metro, in my municipality, we are going to have the unveiling of the blue boxes on October 31. That is the day before the deadline for recycling of soft drink bottles, and it also happens to be two weeks before the municipal election: crises of a different nature, but those are the things that have driven recycling in Metropolitan Toronto.

I think the conclusion we have to draw from all of that is, while voluntary programs are commendable and while I am glad to see them in place, they are in fact not moving fast enough to deal with the problem. That is why we have to go beyond that and, as a provincial government and as a provincial Legislature, say, "There needs to be mandatory recycling."

We have seen a government, which the member for Brampton North says wants to respect other levels of government, move to tell other levels of government what to do in housing because of the crisis that arose, to threaten municipalities that, if they do not build in some affordable housing, then they will be forced to do so by the provincial government.

I think the crisis in waste management is of sufficient urgency that the province has to move in that direction on this one as well. What is interesting is that the government and the Liberal Party have said they support mandatory recycling. I am sure all members will recall the project for environmental priorities that sent a survey to everybody in the 1985 election campaign and in the 1987 election campaign.

When you look at the question that they circulated prior to the 1987 election campaign, it reads:

"Garbage incineration and recycling: If properly used, the 3 Rs can dramatically reduce waste requiring landfill or incineration. However, many municipalities give the three Rs a low priority and instead focus on landfill and incineration. These approaches may pose a serious environmental threat to ground, water and air quality. Will you support mandatory residential curbside recycling as a component of municipal waste management systems?"

How did the Premier (Mr. Peterson) answer that question? The Premier answered with a yes. How did the current Minister of the Environment answer that question? He answered with a yes. And how did the member for Brampton North answer that question? With a yes. That was in September 1987 and here we are in November 1988, and suddenly mandatory recycling is no longer acceptable, no longer going to be supported, we have to allow the municipalities to do it at their own pace.

We, in this party, have long supported mandatory recycling. It has been part of our program for many years, and at our provincial convention last summer we adopted a resolution that I would like to put before the House because I think it spells out very clearly what a New Democratic Party government will do to implement recycling of solid wastes to reduce garbage.

"An NDP government considers that recycling of residentially generated glass, metal cans and newspaper should be mandatory. Municipalities would be required to refrain from collecting garbage from those residences where the home owner or tenant has not separated out the recyclables listed above. Mandatory recycling as

stipulated in the above clause would be carried out by instituting a blue box recycling program in every municipality. Programs would extend to all multiple dwellings, including high-rise apartments, buildings and condominiums. Market development for reclaimed materials would be assisted through research and startup grants for companies seeking to use these materials.

"Mandatory recycling would be established in the commercial and business sectors for the two waste components that are immediately amenable to recycling, fine paper and corrugated cardboard. Freight rates would be set such that recycled and to-be-recycled materials would be moved more cheaply than virgin materials. All provincial government offices would be required to purchase stationery made from wholly or partially recycled paper, whenever feasible. Recycling programs would be expanded to include compostable wastes, and home owners and tenants with yard space for composting would be provided with composting bins.

"Recycling programs would be expanded to include certain household hazardous wastes that can be safely picked up in this way, such as dry cell batteries. An NDP government would also assist the funding of experimental, innovative recycling systems."

That is the kind of meaningful, active program that will really get this province on the road not only to recycling but also to reduction of waste. It is the kind of program that I think this province needs. I think that Bill 89, which is before us this morning, is the first step going in that direction, and we will be supporting the legislation.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Simcoe East.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me congratulate you on your recent appointment.

I am very pleased to participate in the debate on Bill 89, An Act requiring municipalities to establish Programs for the Recycling of Garbage. I wish to commend the member for Mississauga South for bringing forward such a thoughtful and practical proposal. Mandatory recycling as proposed by the bill will contribute to the solution to Ontario's waste management and landfill dilemma.

As all members will be aware, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario has taken a leadership role in pressing the government to tackle this issue. The government must find solutions to what has clearly become a crisis in this province. I realize that "crisis" is a rather harsh word, but I am not alone in making this observation. Ontario Multi-Material Recycling

Inc., the Toronto Recycling Action Committee and major newspapers all have termed the challenge of municipal waste disposal in Ontario a crisis. Even the Minister of the Environment, who so rarely says anything comprehensible, has observed that it is time to tackle Ontario's garbage crisis. I say bravo. Perhaps the minister has come to his senses.

I think the statistics tell the story. Each year Ontario produces over 10 million tons of waste. Every day each individual is responsible for one kilogram of garbage. Over 90 per cent of this garbage goes into landfill sites, but an unprecedented number of these sites are almost full to the brim. We all recognize that something must be done to prevent the breakdown of Ontario's waste management systems. What action have we seen? Unfortunately, it is rather chaotic.

The municipality of Durham is a good example of the province-wide trend. Durham region currently dumps its garbage in the Metropolitan Toronto Brock West landfill site, which will run out of space in the next two years. The region is not willing to let Metro open another landfill site in its boundaries, and Durham must therefore find its own solutions to the garbage problem. Now, we know that it normally takes at least five years to locate and prepare a new landfill site, so I think it is fair to say that, for the people of Durham region, time has already run out.

1140

The Minister of the Environment will no doubt recall the actions he took in October 1989 to close down the Pauzé landfill site, which served six municipalities. At present, these municipalities are shipping thousands of tons of garbage to Toronto's Keele Valley site at an enormous cost to the ratepayers. Is this the solution the minister has to the waste disposal crisis or is he really just playing a game of musical landfill sites with the province's garbage?

The whole mess brings to mind the garbage fiasco in New York City, when barges full of waste were set adrift on the Atlantic Ocean. One is left wondering whether the Minister of the Environment might some day soon send Ontario's garbage on a voyage of discovery through the Great Lakes.

Most likely, though, we will see in most instances the Halton solution to the crisis. In Halton county, the earliest a new dump can be opened is 1992. Halton now has nowhere to put its garbage, so it is paying \$1 million a month to haul it to Niagara Falls, New York, where it is burned in an incinerator operated by Occidental

Chemical Corp. Potentially, Halton could have to spend close to \$50 million for haulage unless other alternatives become available.

If the government keeps this up, we will soon reach the point where garbage will be Ontario's greatest export to the United States. There will be more garbage than tourists at the border crossing. Ultimately, this whole idea of shipping garbage to the United States is completely unsatisfactory. It only serves to show that the government of Ontario is incapable of solving its own problems.

Interjection.

Mr. McLean: You agree to that.

It demeans this province to export our garbage just so that the Americans can burn it and then send it back to us in the form of pollution.

The list of crisis areas in Ontario is growing every day. It is clear that the government is aware of the severity of the situation. What is not clear is whether there is any leadership at the top. Day after day, the minister stands in this House and refuses to answer questions on the landfill crisis. Instead, he blames the previous government for the problem and calls the opposition pessimistic. Surely, he does not think that laying blame and insulting the members opposite is somehow sufficient to satisfy Ontarians.

We are genuinely troubled by this government's action. This minister has closed down 100 landfill sites and has not approved one to be opened. The fact is that this crisis has been building since 1985, when the Liberals came to power. As with so many other issues, this Liberal government is unable to provide direction. It is rather odd that while our garbage is criss-crossing the province, the government is sitting idly by. Such inaction increases our confidence that this Liberal government will end up in the trash heap when the electorate is through with it.

There are only three ways to deal with garbage. We can bury it, as the electorate will be doing to this government, we can burn it, as should be done with most of the statements by the Minister of the Environment, or we can make as strong an effort as possible to recycle. Clearly, incineration is unsatisfactory because we should not be exchanging a garbage problem for a pollution problem.

Incinerators and energy-from-waste facilities were once regarded as a solution for the mounting garbage problem. Recently, they have been shown to be harmful to the environment as they release toxic substances into the air, water and food chain. Until technology is available to ensure clean burning of waste, incineration should not even be considered. Up to now, the

province has been relying heavily on landfill. As we have seen, there are enormous problems in locating new landfill sites. Local opposition is often understandable. It is now vital that alternative measures be found.

That brings me to recycling. The benefits of recycling are considerable. To begin with, statistics indicate that over 30 per cent of all garbage could soon be recycled. That is 30 per cent less garbage to be landfilled. Pollution Probe, a respected environmental organization, tells us that the city of Ottawa is presently recycling 10 to 13 per cent of its garbage, but has a potential to recycle 34 per cent by the year 2001.

The cities of Guelph, Kitchener and Waterloo have set similar targets. The Ministry of the Environment even makes a bold prediction that 50 per cent of garbage could eventually be recycled. This appears to be backed up by statistics from Europe. Anyone could be impressed by the potential. Recycling is an environmentally sound proposition. Instead of burning garbage or allowing it to decay in a hole in the ground, industry can reuse materials such as glass, metal and paper. I have no doubt that full-scale recycling of plastics will begin in the near future.

Clearly, recycling is a progressive step in protecting the environment. Furthermore, recycling creates jobs. In March 1988, it was announced that a recycling plant employing 350 people would be built in Whitby. It has been called a boon to the environment and the pocket. This plant, which will remove ink from newspaper, could use up much of the surplus 300,000 tons of used newsprint which ends up in our landfill sites every year. Consider how many trees will be saved every year through the operation of this one plant. This is a kind of project Ontario needs; good jobs in an area with enormous potential. Ultimately, recycling makes economic sense.

In the beginning, it requires an investment of effort and money by government and industry. Consumers must be persuaded to make recycling part of their daily activities. However, the reduction in landfill requirements will free tax dollars for other purposes. Recycling can easily be profitable for private enterprise, and this means greater tax revenue for the government and a stronger economy. Consumers will benefit because recycled goods will be cheaper to purchase. Ultimately, everyone benefits: industry, government and private citizens.

We in the Progressive Conservative Party have never been afraid to provide leadership, so one of our members has brought forward a bill that will correct the obvious problems of the municipal recycling support program.

This bill brought forward by the member for Mississauga South ensures that every municipality will implement a recycling program for discarded metal, glass and newspaper. In the future, when new items are found to be recyclable, the bill can be amended accordingly.

Bill 89 makes sense, perfect sense, and that is why I encourage all members of this House to join me in supporting Bill 89.

Mr. Epp: I am in agreement with this bill's underlying principle of expanding the recycling activity in Ontario. We need to move beyond the blue box program. This year, municipalities expect to recycle 130,000 tonnes of paper, glass, metal and polyethylene tetrathalate soft drink containers. We expect to see more than the projected goal of 170,000 tonnes recycled in 1989.

We have made a good start, but the Minister of the Environment is committed to doing much more. If we are to make a real dent in the production of wastes and to recover significant amounts of discarded material, we must push to extend recycling on a consistent province-wide basis.

As mentioned by my colleague, there are special concerns in northern Ontario which have resulted in slower progress. To address these concerns, a Recycle North Task Force has been formed to review the feasibility of recycling projects for communities such as North Bay, Sudbury, Kirkland Lake, Timmins, Thunder Bay and Kenora. The task force's feasibility analysis will be reviewed by representatives of major northern municipalities, and we are sure that its practical input will assist in resolving concerns and expediting the development of northern recycling programs.

This government has made this blue box recycling program a success and we have already taken the next step and asked the question, where do we go from here to expand recycling in Ontario? Recently, many apartment tenants expressed their desire to get involved in the recycling effort. By working with municipalities to extend recycling to apartment units, a diversion rate of 20 per cent may well be feasible. Pilot studies under way in Guelph, funded by the Ministry of the Environment, are proving to be successful and provide an example of what can be done in other municipalities in this province.

The Ministry of the Environment and Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc. are also now supporting a recycling demonstration project in Guelph to evaluate a mechanical sorting machine—

[Applause]

1150

Mr. Epp: Let the record show that there is great applause in favour of Guelph—a mechanical sorting machine that will separate steel and aluminum cans, glass and two-litre PET plastic soft drink containers. The new sorting machine will automatically divide the container recyclables into different material components. The ministry is also supporting Guelph's pilot waste recovery project to collect domestic and commercial organic waste material and produce a marketable compost. The recovery project will evaluate the feasibility of achieving a diversion of up to 30 per cent of the waste stream and the effectiveness of implementing a full-scale, city-wide organic material recovery and composting system.

These new directions in municipal 4R projects have the potential for making a real dent in Ontario's garbage production. With one of them, composting, we are going beyond recycling and into recovery. All of the 4R solutions—reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery—can be brought to bear on our various garbage crises with considerable impact on waste volumes. If you look at the quantities of waste going to community landfill, you will find that easily half of the load comes from the commercial-industrial material collected by private waste haulers.

The ministry's industrial 4R program is encouraging initiatives which will ultimately make inroads in this waste load. It is encouraging business and industry to take a closer look at the value of their waste. The current initiatives will help tame waste generation in a variety of industries, including newsprint, wood, food, processing, electroplating, cardboard and steel. We want to nurture—I want to emphasize that—the development of new industrial waste management techniques. Good ideas should not gather dust on a shelf because a company cannot manage the cost and risk of pursuing them. Through the industrial 4R program, the government shares the risk and spreads the rewards of industrial 4R research and development.

One of the concerns that has been raised about mandatory recycling is that it is does not recognize that the market development for recycled material also needs to grow. In order to ensure a successful recycling program, there

must be a market for the materials. To date, both supply and demand have grown together. The concern raised is that mandatory recycling would flood the existing market and result in recycling failing due to inadequate markets.

We need to work with the municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and industry in a co-operative program to develop the recycling market. This government is prepared to help in this effort. The Canadian Waste Materials Exchange, which we support along with the federal government and other provinces, offers all industries access to a broad spectrum of useful waste materials. In April 1987, this ministry also joined with the Ontario Waste Management Corp. to provide funding for the activities of the Ontario Waste Exchange. I believe that the increased support has allowed the Ontario Waste Exchange to take a more proactive role in linking companies that have complementary raw material and waste disposal needs.

I predict that significant additional growth should result from efforts of the Ontario Waste Exchange this coming year. Waste exchanges will play a key role in achieving up to 50 per cent diversion of waste from disposal that we are seeking from the commercial-industrial waste streams. Similar diversion levels are expected from the 4R program for industrial waste. With these industrial programs and with our municipal assistance program, our government has put its money where its mouth is. So has OMMRI, through its municipal recycling support program, and the rewards of this investment spread throughout our economy.

These programs now offer a secure supply of post-consumer recycling paper. Taking advantage of this, a private company has announced that it will open Ontario's second paper mill to use these materials and create 300 jobs east of Toronto. The aluminum industry has developed its own valuable recycling effort based on the economics of energy conservation. We can see that some industries have assumed responsibility for controlling and reducing their wastes, but there is room for more. What we need is net materials accountability.

Packagers and producers will have a role to ensure that their product materials are recovered after use. Producers of small batteries, for example, should help finance and establish battery collection and handling facilities. Newspaper companies should participate in collecting and recycling old newspapers.

The plastics industry's sophistication in developing and marketing products far outstrips its

performance in developing recycling and recovery systems. In the future, publishers, packagers, retailers, the plastics industry and other generators of waste material should join the effort. It is time they assumed a fair share of responsibility for the environmental safety of their products.

This government is eager to join with them in a co-operative effort to address the problem and turn a wasteful situation around. This government believes in a co-operative approach with municipalities.

Mrs. Marland: I want to start very quickly by correcting the record. It is unfortunate that the member for Brampton North, the parliamentary assistant for the Minister of the Environment, does not know what percentage of garbage is being recycled. I did not say one tenth. I did not say 10 per cent. I said 1.8 per cent and that is the figure from the Minister of the Environment's own speech.

Mr. Ballinger: The department had an adjective in there.

Mrs. Marland: I think it would be great if at some time the government House leader would allow the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) to speak legitimately in this House. He spends his whole time doing interjections for everybody else, which is perhaps an indication of something on which I would not wish to comment.

This government said this morning, through its parliamentary assistant, the member for Brampton North, that it believes in working with municipalities. We certainly have a wonderful example of that on the subject of Sunday shopping. We have it on the subject of affordable housing. There are many areas in which this Liberal government demonstrates its co-operation and lack of it with municipalities.

I also took exception to the fact that my friend the member for Brampton North said I did not support co-operation. On a personal basis, I want to put on the record that I really took exception to that.

Obviously, this government's position on this bill, to be opposed to mandatory recycling on the part of municipalities around this province, is only a further example of this government's lack of leadership.

If there is one area that concerns me the most about the whole process of what I have heard this morning from the Liberal members, it is the fact that we have a whole line of dishonesty in terms of government policy and government direction.

I would be interested to know if the Minister of the Environment would have said on Monday of this week, when he addressed the conference of the Recycling Council of Ontario, that he would have been directing his Liberal government members today, Thursday, in this House to vote against this bill. I just wonder if this Liberal government really understands that the people of Ontario will not stand for or tolerate politicians who speak out of both sides of their mouths.

We have on record in Ontario today the fact that the Minister of the Environment and the member for Brampton North are both opposing mandatory recycling. The public is not naïve and the public will not forget that this Liberal government is opposed to mandatory recycling. It cannot hide behind the fact that, "We are doing it; We are doing it, folks, we have the blue box program." I addressed that in my earlier comments. Yes, today we have the blue box program. If we so believe that this must be an ongoing program for ever, why would we not legislate it?

The reason is that it is not a priority of the government today and it does not want to guarantee that it will be its priority in years to come. If they are willing to guarantee that their belief is solidly behind a recycling program in this province, then they would work to make sure that every municipality offers it, not on the whim of individual municipalities which have different priorities. This government would show leadership. It would set priorities for the government and for the people of this province.

Obviously, this morning we have had an absolutely perfect example of the credibility of this Liberal government being clearly established at zero. If it were not so serious, it would almost be amusing. In fact, I have found this morning perfectly disgusting because of the fact that the Minister of the Environment misled the people last year when he told them in a questionnaire—

Some hon. members: No way. Shame.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1200

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw that the Minister of the Environment misled the people last year. What he did last year was to sign a questionnaire where he said he believed in and supported mandatory recycling. I will leave the conclusion for the public, when it now knows that this minister is not supporting my private bill which would ensure mandatory recycling to the municipalities around this province.

It is absolutely incredible that this government is not willing to put its commitment where its

speakers are, and for the parliamentary assistant, the member for Brampton North, also to complete the same questionnaire and say that he believes in mandatory recycling and then to have to come into the House and follow the change in the thinking on which this government was elected. The whole point here is that the promises this government made in September 1987 are now being totally reversed. We are continually having examples of where they charged around this province making all kinds of promises on all kinds of issues, and now, today, they are taking completely opposite positions.

I am not disappointed on a personal basis; I am disgusted.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the discussion on private members' public business for this morning.

1207

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

The House divided on Mr. Mackenzie's motion for second reading of Bill 156, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Grier, Laughren, Mackenzie, Morin-Strom, Polsinelli.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Brandt, Callahan, Cleary, Collins, Cooke, D. R., Cousens, Cunningham, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Furlong, Harris, Hart, Johnson, J. M., Kanter, Keyes, Kozyra, LeBourdais, Lipsett, MacDonald, Mancini, Marland, McClelland, McGuigan, McLean, Neumann, Nixon, J. B., Owen, Pelissero, Ray, M. C., Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Villeneuve, Wilson.

Ayes 8; nays 46.

GARBAGE RECYCLING PROGRAMS ACT

The House divided on Mrs. Marland's motion for second reading of Bill 89, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Brandt, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cunningham, Eves, Grier, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, McLean, Morin-Strom, Neumann, Ray, M. C., Sullivan, Villeneuve.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Callahan, Cleary, Collins, Cooke, D. R., Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Furlong, Hart, Kanter, Keyes, Kozyra, LeBourdais, Lipsett, MacDonald, Mancini, McClelland, McGuigan, Nixon,

J. B., Owen, Pelissero, Polsinelli, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Tatham, Wilson.

Ayes 19; nays 36.

The House recessed at 12:14 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

LANDLORDS' RESTRICTIONS ON PETS

Ms. Bryden: I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) the need for an amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act to stop the growing practice of landlords including a blanket no-pets clause in their leases.

Pets contribute a great deal to the wellbeing of seniors and others who live alone. It is discriminatory to deny tenants the same right to have pets that people who own houses have, provided the pets are not causing any disturbance to others nearby.

The Toronto Humane Society has said that in 1987 it admitted to the society's shelters 9,900 cats and dogs because of enforcement of no-pet and pet restriction policies of landlords. For many pets, this is a death sentence. The society cannot find new homes for such large numbers.

I cite the case of Mrs. Marian Ryll, who shares apartment 823 with her husband and one 16-year-old cat at 265D Cassandra Boulevard in North York. The cat never goes out, but her landlord, Kirkton Investments Ltd., has issued an eviction notice to the couple because "the cat is offensive to the landlord and other tenants." He has adduced no evidence to prove this in the notice. The eviction notice was dated October 18, 1988, and is effective November 14, 1988.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO
GOVERNMENT

Mr. Cousens: I rise today to express concern over the tremendous surge in salaries that has been taking place in Metropolitan Toronto and local council chambers over the past few months. Metro councillors will now receive \$57,500, from \$19,800 last year. Toronto school trustees increased their wages by 86.5 per cent to \$44,678. Etobicoke city councillors' pay increased by 84.5 per cent to \$44,090. It is estimated that the new directly elected Metro council will cost taxpayers \$4.5 million just to start up operations. This is in addition to a new \$211-million complex.

Citizens across Metropolitan Toronto are incensed, and rightly so. Yet where has our

Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) been during these events? What is his opinion on these exorbitant salary hikes? The taxpayers of Metropolitan Toronto deserve an answer to these questions, and I, for one, share in their outrage over these pay hikes.

The creation of a separate, directly elected Metro council was necessary to respond to the growing areas of responsibility within Metropolitan Toronto. It was not created to facilitate generous salary increases for councillors and representatives at the local and Metro levels.

HIRING PRACTICES

Mr. Tatham: From Business Week, October 3, 1988:

"How does Japan Inc. pick its American workers?"

"Team participation is mandatory. The basic philosophy: Reward is not so much from your personal performance as from your impact on team and company.

"At Diamond-Star, a joint venture between Chrysler Corp. and Mitsubishi Motor Corp., applicants are told they must learn several jobs, change shifts, work overtime, make and take constructive criticism and submit a stream of suggestions for improving efficiency.

"It's not an easy decision," warns a blunt video. 'You've got to ask yourself if you are willing to dedicate yourself to the Diamond-Star team.'

"Dedication alone isn't enough. Diamond-Star says 24 per cent of its applicants wash out during a slew of written, medical and drug tests. About 40 per cent who pass the first stage fail the company's screening and training process. Still, Diamond-Star ended up with 6,700 qualified candidates for its first 300 jobs. Mazda hired only about 1,300 of nearly 10,000 applicants who passed its five-step screening process.

"Each company says it spent about \$40 million, roughly \$13,000 per employee, to staff its US plants.

"Overkill? Maybe, but Mazda and Diamond-Star aren't taking any chances. Neither company spends nearly as much effort finding workers in Japan, where the school system does much of the screening work for them. In the US, the companies believe, they have to start from scratch. With a growing number of American companies coming to the same conclusion, it

soon may be tougher to land a job—whether you wear a white collar or a blue one.”

TRITIUM

Mr. Charlton: The issue of the potential for selling tritium on the international market has been simmering just below the surface for several years now. The present government has never clearly set out its position on that issue.

Ontario Hydro wants to be able to sell tritium in order to start reducing its massive debt. Tritium is worth about \$15 million per kilogram. Hydro has repeatedly stated it will not sell any of its tritium to nuclear arms producers. However, the addition of Hydro's tritium to the international supply will free up other tritium for arms use as the nonmilitary market is fully serviced.

Recently, Hydro and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. have been involved in running courses on the safe handling of tritium through the Canadian fusion fuels technology project. These courses have been attended by a number of nuclear arms manufacturers, including Sandia, the Laurence Livermore National Laboratories, Westinghouse and General Electric.

This calls into question the sincerity of Hydro's past assurances. It is time this government clearly set out a position in opposition to the export and sale of tritium. This government should put a stop to the attendance at training courses on the safe handling of tritium by nuclear arms producers.

ASSETS DISPOSAL

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten). A recent *Globe and Mail* story outlined how his ministry held giant garage sales in what bureaucrats call the recycling and disposal of movable public assets, such as typewriters, chairs, desks, pool tables and office equipment, at bargain basement prices. Unfortunately, these sales took place and will take place only in Toronto. Why not hold them at various locations in Ontario so that those living outside the Metropolitan area can take advantage of an opportunity whereby people are given a second chance to pay for something they already own as taxpayers?

I was taken aback when Robert Milne, supervisor of assets disposal for the ministry, was quoted as saying: “A lot of people love shopping, and if they can find good deals, they're happy. It makes people feel a bit better about government, I hope.” In other words, the minister is buying off the taxpayers of Ontario by offering them the chance to buy something they

already own. That is an extremely poor way of doing business. If you ask me, at least he could have donated this furniture and equipment to schools, community organizations or other worthwhile groups, rather than trying to keep taxpayers happy by offering them goods or something they already own.

The previous government arranged that libraries could purchase equipment at cost and many other organizations had the use of this furniture which is now being disposed of only in Metropolitan Toronto.

THOMAS B. McQUESTEN

Mr. Dietsch: I would like to take this opportunity to remind members of this House of a reception and book launching being held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8, in honour of the biography and the man, Thomas B. McQuesten.

Thomas B. McQuesten was a past member of the Hamilton Board of Parks Management, a past chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission and Minister of Highways, to name a few. He was a man of vision. He was a man who planned and built for the future, a man who made enormous contributions to the building of parks, bridges and highways, the most notable being the Queen Elizabeth Way, which are now an integral part of much of Ontario's everyday life.

Roland Barnsley, author of this biography, will be in attendance to present autographed copies. I would also like to offer special thanks to Norris and John Walker of Walker Brother Quarries for helping to bring this story of the forgotten builder to the new generations of Canadians through their centennial project.

As a last word, the members of this House will agree that I would not be myself if I did not remind all my colleagues of the excellent quality of wines, fruits, vegetables and peanuts which will be exclusively available at this reception. I look forward to see all members Tuesday, November 8, in the legislative dining room.

1340

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. McLean: I have a statement I would like to make, directed mainly to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

Save Orillia has had a fantastic fund-raising program to raise \$5 million for a new hospital in Orillia. That program has been in the works for some six months. They have now fulfilled over 80 per cent of their goal of \$5 million, whereby over \$4 million has been donated and put in trust for the new hospital to be built.

I want to know when the minister will approve a new hospital for the city and community around Orillia. I hope that decision will be forthcoming very shortly, as I know the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is just waiting to get rid of some of those funds he has in that budget.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

WIFE ASSAULT

VIOLENCE AU FOYER

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Today, I am pleased to announce to this assembly that we are launching a new campaign to prevent wife assault.

This campaign has two objectives: to educate the general public about the criminal nature of domestic assault and to underline the need for public responsibility in its prevention. The campaign takes place throughout November, which has been named Wife Assault Prevention Month.

Cette campagne a deux objectifs: éduquer le grand public sur la nature criminelle de la violence au foyer, et souligner le besoin de responsabiliser le public quant à la prévention de cette forme de violence. La campagne aura lieu durant tout le mois de novembre, qui a été choisi comme Mois de la prévention de la violence faite aux femmes.

The government is committed to reducing the incidence of wife assault. The \$600,000-campaign in annual public education funds is part of the provincial government's ongoing commitment to the prevention of wife assault. The Ontario government's integrated approach includes a commitment to law enforcement measures and criminalization, family support programs and shelter services, as well as professional and public education.

The Ontario women's directorate co-ordinates work in these three areas with 15 provincial ministries involving 22 programs and a total commitment of \$33.5 million in fiscal 1988-89. That represents a 15 per cent increase over 1987-88. Of this total, more than \$27 million is committed to services for the women and children directly affected by wife assault.

La Direction générale de la condition féminine de l'Ontario oeuvre dans ces trois secteurs en collaboration avec quinze ministères provinciaux, ce qui représente 22 programmes et un financement total de 33,5 millions de dollars pour l'exercice financier de 1988-1989, soit une augmentation de 15 pour cent par rapport à l'exercice financier de 1987-1988. Sur ce total, plus de 27 millions de dollars seront consacrés à

des services pour les femmes et les enfants directement touchés par la violence au foyer.

"Break the silence" was the message of the initial public education campaign. That campaign, I am pleased to report, went a long way in changing attitudes. Our follow-up studies indicated that it brought the issue of wife assault out into the open.

With that important first step taken, we have moved on to a new phase in our public education program. Our message now is "Wife assault—it is a crime."

That is the message we are determined to deliver across Ontario. It is crucial to remind every person in this province that wife assault is not a family affair, is not a private problem, a secret between partners. It is, instead, a problem that demands action from all of us as a responsible society.

We have worked actively with immigrant women's groups and with the francophone and native communities in our effort to make public education most effective. A community advisory committee provided valuable input to our design of this phase of the public education program, and I thank it for its assistance.

Let me now describe the elements of the campaign I am announcing this afternoon.

First, we are presenting television advertisements that will be aired across the province next month. These two 60-second ads will be broadcast in both French and English.

The ads look at wife assault from two angles: from the battered woman's and from that of the man who assaults her. They also illustrate the different types of domestic abuse, because wife assault can be not only physical but also psychological, emotional and sexual.

Along with the television ads, a poster is being widely distributed throughout the province. A brochure on wife assault will be available in seven languages. Radio advertisements will target a variety of third-language communities and, most important, communities across Ontario are presenting local initiatives on wife assault prevention.

Some 101 groups in this province receive government funding, totalling \$160,000, in order to complete projects tailored to their particular community needs. Included in this effort are immigrant women's groups, francophone groups, rural and native women's organizations and northern Ontario communities.

Most of the projects designed by these groups are taking place during wife assault prevention month. They include workshop forums for public

discussions, dramatic presentations and educational resources.

Before I close, I would like to say a final word about the issue of wife assault. Too often we jump to conclusions about the victims of these crimes. We blame them for the crime, instead of their abusers, or we tell ourselves it can't happen here and that it is a problem that happens to other people in other neighbourhoods. But that, quite frankly, is just not so. We have to understand the real nature of wife assault. I am confident the campaign I am launching today will help accomplish that.

Wife assault cuts across all boundaries of class, of geography, of cultures and of incomes. We have to realize that it is not a remote act of violence. It is violence that could be happening right now, right next door.

There is no excuse for the crime of wife assault. We have to deliver that message loudly and clearly, that we will not tolerate such violence and that we will not turn our backs on the urgent need to provide personal safety to each and every woman in this province.

ADVOCACY

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am pleased to table today the report of the Advisory Committee on Substitute Decision-Making for Mentally Incapable Persons.

The committee was composed of government officials, nominees of the legal, health, psychological and social work professions and nominees of various other interest groups.

They have produced an important report on the question of how to provide responsible decision-making for those who are unable to make their own decisions.

The report raises some critical societal concerns and, for that reason, the government will be seeking widespread public comment on the committee's many recommendations.

As members will know, substitute decision-making is a significant issue in these times. Substitute decision-making involves questions of who should be allowed to make personal care and property administration decisions on behalf of those who, because of mental incapacity, cannot make their own decisions.

Our current laws have not undergone substantial change for a number of years. They, therefore, require updating so as to take account of the competing interests in this area. These issues raise sensitive public policy issues regarding the independence of the individual and civil liberties.

It is for that reason that, along with my colleagues, the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini), I want to receive public comments on this report.

We will circulate this report to a large number of groups and individuals concerned throughout the province. We will be asking them to review critically the report's recommendations and to offer their comment and advice.

We will ask them to comment on these recommendations in light of the proposals advanced in two earlier reports, which the House will have seen. The first of these was the report prepared by Father Sean O'Sullivan on the question of social advocacy for vulnerable adults. The second was the report prepared by Professor Alan Manson of Queen's University into the operation of the psychiatric patients' advocacy office. It is clear these three reports are interrelated and need to be considered as a group rather than individually.

After the consultation period, we hope we will be able to consider various options that are presented and return to the House in due course with proposals that will address these serious matters.

1350

In conclusion, I want particularly to thank all of those who served on what is known as the Fram committee. They have spent literally hundreds of hours struggling with some basic and significant questions and they are to be commended for the thoroughness with which they have recommended answers.

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Next week, October 30 to November 5, is Crime Prevention Week in Ontario. The theme for the week is "Crime prevention—year 'round in our community." All Ontarians should reflect on the fact that they live in one of the safest jurisdictions in the world. This is due in no small part to the exceptional work that our police forces have done over the years and in a way this week is a testimonial to their success.

Crime Prevention Week is also a recognition of the vital involvement by members of the public in police-related projects. We have in Ontario a real team effort of which I am extremely proud. Maintaining the safety of our communities is as much a responsibility of the

people who live in them as it is for the police. It is heartening to see that in some cases community initiatives have even preceded police in finding creative ways to keep crime rates down.

Again this year I will have the pleasure of travelling across the province to participate in a number of activities to promote Crime Prevention Week. All across Ontario, a strong rapport has developed between the police and organizations such as Neighbourhood Watch or Students Against Driving Drunk or local television stations that have incorporated a Crime Stoppers show into their regular programming.

As part of Crime Prevention Week, I will have the opportunity to present more than 100 crime prevention awards to police officers, individuals or organizations who have made outstanding contributions to their communities in this area. These awards are this government's recognition of the great collective and co-operative effort that is being made in the field of crime prevention. I am certain all members will join me in encouraging every Ontarian to participate.

As well, we have produced a very fine crime prevention poster which we will gladly give to any members of this Legislature or organizations in Ontario that wish to help us in our efforts to prevent crime.

RESPONSES

ADVOCACY

Mr. Reville: Mr. Speaker, in response to the statement of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), you would think I would be very happy today, because it was only yesterday that I asked for some action from the government. Lo and behold, the very next day, we open our Globe and Mail and there it is. It is an amazing thing. However, I am not happy. I am sad and I am angry.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reville: The reason I am sad and angry—if the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) will stop acting like a buffoon for a second—is that the Attorney General is insulting the very people he seeks so graciously to thank, those people who spent literally hundreds of hours developing these recommendations. But far worse than that is that he insults the very vulnerable adults for whom this exercise was intended.

If people will look at the Fram report, they will see in the back of the report there is draft legislation. What we see this government doing

is sending these three documents—the Manson report, the O'Sullivan report and the Fram report—out for yet another round of public consultation. This is a stall of the most major proportions. My sense is that this legislation has been worked on by all the experts in this field and the best way to get that input is in the committee, where people can come forward and comment on it.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what the government has in mind, because you will not see it in the Attorney General's remarks today.

The Health Protection and Promotion Act has had a significant section removed from it, that section that requires a person who would administer a vaccination to an elderly person who is incompetent, that section has been removed until December 31, 1989. That is the kind of pace this government is setting, and I think it is unworthy of the people who have laboured so mightily on all these reports. Shame on you.

Mr. B. Rae: This government is becoming a repository of reports. Let me just say to the Attorney General, he has been sitting on them. Remember Coulter Osborne's report on insurance? Nothing from the government. Judge Zuber's report on court organization? Nothing from the government. Mr. Donner's report on overtime? Nothing from the government. Dr. Ianni's report on retirement? Nothing from the government. Father O'Sullivan's report, You've Got a Friend? Nothing from the government. Mr. Manson's report? Nothing from the government. The trinity of Spasoff, Evans and Podborski on health care? Nothing from the government. Professor Friedland on pensions? Nothing from the government. And Majesky-Minna? A step backward from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara).

It is not simply that these reports are collecting dust. It is that people—pensioners, people in nursing homes, people who are frail, people who are working far too long and too hard—are waiting for action from this government and they have had nothing since September 10, 1987. This government has been doing absolutely zilch on every report submitted to it on every matter of major importance, whether it is a nursing home or somebody who is sick or somebody who is on pension. The frail, the elderly and the weak have been waiting since September 1987 for this government to act. It has been sitting on its fanny and doing absolutely nothing on their behalf.

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. Runciman: I would like to respond to the statement of the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith)

with respect to Crime Prevention Week. Our party wants to join in congratulating and thanking our police forces across the province and the community organizations that support them, especially the men and women in our police forces who put their lives on the line every day for the people of this province.

We do indeed live in one of the safest jurisdictions in the world. Some might argue that the situation is changing, especially in our heavily urbanized areas. Our police forces need community support.

They also need and deserve much better support than they currently receive from this government. We can talk about things like drug enforcement, which we brought to the minister's attention almost half a year ago and she treated it in a cavalier fashion. We can talk about the anti-rackets squad trying to combat white-collar crime in this province, woefully understaffed, and the minister will not address that critical situation.

In my own area of the province, in eastern Ontario, the talk is continuously about reducing the number of Ontario Provincial Police detachments. We have areas of Highway 401 without any police coverage for four or five hours during the evenings. That is the kind of commitment this province is making to policing.

The minister is travelling the province handing out awards in a public relations effort while, at the same time, she is doubling the political staff in her own office. This government is creating another 6,000 civil service jobs in many areas that do not really require them, in our opinion. They have their priorities all off base.

Let's do something meaningful instead of political posturing with respect to the police forces across this province and ensure that we remain one of the safest jurisdictions in the world.

WIFE ASSAULT

Mr. Jackson: I wish to respond to the announcement of the minister responsible for women's issues (Mr. Sorbara) on the assault prevention public education campaign.

I know what the minister is trying to do with this campaign, which says, "Wife assault—it is a crime." There is an inequity in our criminal justice system as it relates to domestic violence and crimes of violence. That attitude and that distinction permeates our society and, unfortunately, it permeates our criminal justice system.

1400

If Kirby Inwood had gone next door and assaulted his neighbour's wife, would he have received a suspended sentence? If Kirby Inwood had gone next door and drunkenly dropped his neighbour's son on his head, would he have received just 30 days?

This arbitrary double standard has to be removed from our criminal justice system and from our society. I would suggest to this minister that he might achieve these goals of removing that distinction between family violence and crimes of violence a whole lot faster if he himself would stop referring to assault as wife assault.

The minister is a lawyer. He knows full well that in the Criminal Code there is nothing covering the crime of wife assault. The charge is assault, period. Until this distinction is removed from our minds, it will continue to be perpetuated throughout our criminal justice system.

ADVOCACY

Mrs. Cunningham: We are especially pleased today to see the final report of the Advisory Committee on Substitute Decision-Making for Mentally Incapable Persons; i.e., the Fram committee.

We will underline that we think it took a very long period of time and we urge the government to deal with the recommendations in this report as quickly as possible. We are interested in the committee hearings but we would urge that they not take a very long period of time. In our short reading of this report, I can assure members that our party is most interested in co-operating with the government in very quick decision-making.

We are especially interested in advocacy services for seniors. We would like to make note at this time that to make people subject to this legislation without providing advocacy services for them should therefore be avoided and the committee itself recommends, and I underline, that the substitute decisions act not come into force until advocacy services, supported by appropriate legislation, are operational and are available to persons who would be affected by the substitute decisions act.

Mr. Cousens: Would the House give unanimous consent for in memoriam remarks on the death of Bill Hodgson?

Agreed to.

WILLIAM HODGSON

Mr. Cousens: I rise on behalf of our party in a moment of remembering of a friend and the passing of one who has served in this House, one who is going to be long remembered by the

people of York region and the people of his communities. It is with deep sadness that today we mark the passing this morning of Bill Hodgson, the former MPP for the riding of York North.

Bill was first elected to this Legislature in 1967 and was subsequently re-elected in 1971, 1975, 1977 and 1981. During these years, Bill held a range of posts, including chairman of the select committee on company law, Deputy Speaker of this assembly and parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Housing. In 1981, he was appointed parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Government Services.

Bill's dedication to public service dates back to 1936 when he joined the district milk producers' association. From there he went on to become a trustee and secretary-treasurer of the King township school board and later served as councillor, deputy reeve and reeve of King township council and in 1959 became warden for York county.

These responsibilities are only the tip of the iceberg when one chronicles the distinguished career and service of Bill Hodgson. He sat on numerous committees and associations, the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the York County Hospital board, the children's aid society for what was then York county. His work as a member of the Lions Club was again a signal of his service to his community.

This was a man who was dedicated to serving people, to serving his riding and serving Ontario. He was a builder in the truest sense. There is not a highway in York region that does not have his footprint on it and his care and concern. He was a builder of hospitals. He was concerned about schools. He was instrumental in getting the new courthouse in Newmarket. He was a builder of young people as a coach for intermediate and minor hockey.

He was a great human being, a man who was sincere and honest and good. He visited his mother on a regular basis when she was living, and she lived to over 100 years of age. He was a marvellous family man, highly esteemed by our caucus; we affectionately called him "the senator."

We will miss Bill Hodgson and so will all the people of York region and the people of Ontario, because he was a man who cared and did his best for his party and his province.

On behalf of our party and this House, may I join in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his

wife Eliza, to his children Beth Ann, Robert, Janice and David. He will be sadly missed.

Mr. Laughren: On behalf of my caucus, I want to join the member in expressing our condolences to the Hodgson family. Bill was elected in 1967, four years before I was. During the 14 years we were together in this place, we served on many committees together and got involved in many issues together, very seldom on the same side.

I liked Bill Hodgson. I liked him for a number of reasons. He was quite fiercely independent-minded. I am sure that any of the cabinet ministers of those days would attest to that. There were times when he went his own way. I can recall him being such a fine figure of a man. I often thought he could have had another career, modelling, because he looked so resplendent. It was not all due to his snow-white hair; tall people look better in clothes. I must say I always had a certain amount of envy when I saw Bill come in.

He worked very hard as an MPP. For me, his most endearing quality was the fact that he took his job much more seriously than he took himself. I will miss him, and I know, Mr. Speaker, you will forward the condolences of this caucus to the Hodgson family as well.

Mr. Beer: I would like to join my colleagues in marking this sad occasion, not only for the residents of York region but for all of Ontario, as we have lost a distinguished and long-serving parliamentarian.

Bill Hodgson was a member of this Legislature for 18 years and a municipal politician for more than 17 years before that. He succumbed this morning at two o'clock to his long battle with cancer. Thankfully, Bill was able to go quietly at home with his family around him in the familiar surroundings he had known all of his life.

As has been mentioned, he represented the riding of York North from 1967 until 1985. During that time, Bill became known as a warm and caring individual, one who knew no partisan boundaries in his work for the citizens of the area. Whether you were a Conservative, a Liberal or a New Democrat, he treated everyone the same.

Bill leaves behind him a long and distinguished career of public service. A lifetime resident of King township, he began his life as a farmer's son and continued in farming until his election to the Legislature. Prior to 1950, he served as a school trustee in what was then York county. From 1950 to 1953, he served as a councillor in King township and then as deputy reeve for that township.

For seven years Bill Hodgson served as the reeve of King township and in 1959 he added the responsibility of warden of York county. He became chairman of the King township planning board from 1963 until Canada's centennial year, 1967. It was in that year that he first came to this House.

During his lifetime, Bill distinguished himself in charity work as well, acting as chairman of the committee that built York Pines United Church in Kettleby, the church where he will be laid to rest on Saturday. He was an active member of the Pottageville Lions Club and an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 426 in Newmarket.

Bill was also well known for his work with the junior farmers of the area, helping them to understand the importance of farm work and helping them to be successful at it.

He was born in Nobleton in 1912, one of seven children, predeceased by three of his siblings and his mother who, at the age of 102, passed away just five months ago. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Eliza, and his four children, Beth Anne, Bob, David and Janice.

1410

As a member, Bill enjoyed working with the government, but for years his family urged him to step back to a less hectic lifestyle. He resisted retirement, saying simply, "Serving government is my life."

Citizens of Ontario, residents of York region and the many friends and neighbours of Bill and Eliza Hodgson have much to be grateful for from the many years that Bill devoted to public service. He has left an impressive legacy, and it is good to know that two of his children have followed in his footsteps of government service, David for Ontario and Bob for the region of York.

Bill will be missed, but he will be well and fondly remembered. On behalf of my colleagues in the Liberal Party, I extend our deepest sympathies to the Hodgson family.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Perhaps I can just step a little bit beyond the bounds of normal procedures in these circumstances and say a few words myself about the passing of Bill Hodgson.

Bill Hodgson sat in this House, as the other members have said, for some 17 years. The reason he was not sitting here after May 2, 1985, is that he and I and one other fellow were involved in an election campaign in York North and I succeeded Bill at that time.

I want to just say that Bill Hodgson was a man who was truly committed to his community. I

think all the members of this House know about the kind of camaraderie that develops among opposing candidates during an election, and from virtually the first day that we were on the same campaign trail, I developed a respect for Bill.

But what I really found out about during that election campaign was how deeply he was loved by the people of York region. As I went door to door during that campaign, voter after voter told me how much they loved and respected Bill Hodgson and how much he had done for the community, not just in the riding we were fighting in but all across the region. After his retirement as well, as I took on the responsibilities of representing York region, that same theme was repeated over and over again.

York region really has lost a senator. The province has lost a senator, someone who dedicated virtually his entire life to the service of the people of this province. He will be sadly missed by all of us.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, on behalf of all the members, I will send your words of sympathy to the Hodgson family as soon as the official Hansard is printed.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, before you call oral questions, I wonder if you will permit me to table some information that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) asked me to table. He himself is at a funeral. This is in response to a question asked yesterday. It is not a statement; it is just being tabled.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CHILD CARE

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services following the questions that I put to him yesterday about child care.

The minister, just a few short months before the last provincial election in 1987, put out a very glossy document called *New Directions for Child Care*. It was the Liberal Party platform on child care in the last election. It is supposed to have been the basis for consultation with all those groups providing child care in the province today and it set out the policy of the province for the future. It describes its vision. It says on page 3:

"Ontario's vision for the future of child care is based on several new policy directions:

"Public service, not welfare: Until now, financial assistance for child care has been directed primarily to low-income families through needs-tested subsidies, where available.

Middle-income families receive little or no assistance. The goal of the government is to move child care from its present welfare connotation toward that of a basic public service. This means that support for child care will recognize that services need to be accessible to all families who require them. To achieve this, steps must be taken to ensure that all families who wish it, can have reasonable access to a range of affordable, high-quality services."

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: Why has the minister now abandoned that objective and demanded that people who are providing child care in this province do it on the basis of welfare and not on the basis of a public service?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member is certainly correct in the interpretation of the quote, and that is still the policy position of this government and of this ministry. However, I would also draw the honourable member's attention to someplace else in that document—I am sorry I cannot quote the page—that clearly says that this is a nine-year plan, that there will be three three-year sections.

The first three-year section, the first three-year phase is very clearly identified there. In other words, this is the direction in which we want to move. As I said to the Association for Early Childhood Education, Ontario, meeting last week, we have not changed that, but while we are moving there, while we are moving towards creating more licensed spaces, more subsidies—and there are timetables for all of those; it was never suggested in that document that it was going to happen in one year or two years or even the first three years—while we are moving along that direction, we will continue to have to have priorities.

There is no difference between what that statement says, no difference between how the honourable member interprets that statement and what in fact we are doing, but we cannot do it in one year. While we are going down that road, as I responded to him yesterday, there will have to be priorities.

Mr. B. Rae: This is outrageous. The minister has stated that, as far as he is concerned, it is now the government's policy that in families where, say, the husband is making \$10 an hour and the wife is making \$10 an hour in Metropolitan Toronto, those people should not be eligible for a subsidy. That is what he is saying. The minister shakes his head. He was on his feet yesterday saying that people who make \$40,000 income should not be getting subsidized child care in

Toronto—that was the clear implication of his remarks—or that they should be giving up the space.

How can the minister justify this complete reversal of policy by his party and by his government? His federal leader is going across the country saying, "We're going to spend \$10 billion on child care," and the minister is saying in this House today that families that make \$10 an hour for the father and \$10 an hour for the mother have to give up their subsidized space in Toronto because there is no—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: If the honourable member were to examine Hansard, I believe that in my response to his question yesterday I did not say that the person or the family earning the kind of income he just quoted should not be eligible. I did not say that. I would ask the honourable member to examine my answer. My recollection of my answer is that while they would continue to be eligible, those who were more needy should be at the top of the list and should get the service first. There is a distinct difference between those two elements.

Mr. B. Rae: What the minister is now saying is that it is okay to be on the waiting list, but you will never get it. It is exactly the same thing. That is what he said. He said you are eligible. We all know there are 2,000 people right now who are eligible and they are not getting the care.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: The Liberal Party does not like to hear the truth. The Liberal Party does not like to hear the truth that its federal leader is going across the country saying one thing and their provincial—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is question period time, not debating time.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister's figures yesterday were completely false with respect to the number of families that are receiving the kind of child care there.

Hon. Mr. Scott: He said, "False."

1420

Mr. B. Rae: I said the figures are false; I said the minister's figures were wrong yesterday.

What I want to ask the minister is this: Can he explain why the government today, as the price of its child care policy, is asking families—To go back to the example the minister gave yesterday, he wants to talk about a \$40,000 income. Let's

talk about it. That is \$10 an hour for the man and that is \$10 an hour for the woman if both people are working. Presumably, the minister thinks those families should work. He thinks the wives should be working as well as the men. I presume he does not want the women to have to go back home. I presume that is not what he is saying.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: Why is the minister insisting that the price of his child care policy is that they should give up their space in order to satisfy the minister's cheapness and parsimoniousness when it comes to providing for ample child care for all who need it in this province? That is exactly what the minister is doing.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would once again ask the Leader of the Opposition to examine my answer of yesterday.

I did not say that the families he has just referred to should give up their space. What I did say was that with 18,000 subsidized spaces in Metropolitan Toronto, there is obviously a fairly regular turnover in availability of those spaces. As those spaces become available, those people with the greater need should get them first, not those with the higher income. That is what I said.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Mrs. Grier: My question is also for the Minister of Community and Social Services. It concerns a program in my riding called Access. Access allows parents who do not have custody of their children to meet with those children in neutral and supervised surroundings. Since 1982, with one staff member and dedicated volunteers, Access has allowed 6,500 such visits to occur, 1,000 this year alone.

Access will be closing in mid-December because it has no funding, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services has consistently refused to provide that funding. Can the minister explain that decision to us?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: There are a number of agencies around the province that make a determination to launch, initiate and operate programs on their own. Neither this ministry nor the government as a whole can automatically be responsible for funding such programs where the decision is made by someone else.

I will tell the honourable member, however, that there are two pilot programs in the province that are being funded at the present time to allow that very process to take place. What we are attempting to discover in those two pilot programs, which we did authorize and which we are partially funding, is to determine exactly what is

happening, what the success is and the degree to which it meets the needs we have identified.

The particular program she has indicated was not an authorized program by this province. We are not at the moment funding it. We may very well do so once we learn the results of the two pilot programs in two other areas of the province, but at the moment we are not. She is correct.

Mrs. Grier: I find that the most incredible splitting of hairs. This program in Etobicoke began in 1982 with initial funding from the United Church. Over that period it has repeatedly approached the Ministry of Community and Social Services as well as the Ministry of the Attorney General and demonstrated its viability. Ninety per cent of its clients are referred by the family court. The family courts require written assessments from the program on the clients whom they deal with. The children's aid society refers children to the program.

Can the minister explain why further pilot projects were required when he has received in grant applications the statistics and the demonstrated success of Access, and why he wrote to Access in 1986 turning down their funding? He said: "It is obvious you are meeting a need in the community, and if it were not for your program, children would find it difficult. Your assessments are providing useful information."

Given that knowledge and background—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The questions have been put.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As I have just indicated to the honourable member, there are a number of programs operating around the province that we did not authorize and do not fund. That is a fact of life. It is probably true of several other ministries as well, although I cannot particularly point to it.

I did not indicate—and the member just quoted the section of the letter—that we were unhappy with what they were doing or that we did not want them to do what they were doing. We indicated that at this particular point in time we were funding two pilot programs of our own to discover how we should go about doing that. If they wished to continue what they were doing, that was a decision they had to make; it was not my decision. We did not tell them to do it; we did not tell them not to do it. But I cannot be responsible for a program that some other agencies—in this case, the church the member identified—decide to launch on their own. That is their decision. If they want to do it, they can do it, but I cannot be held responsible for it.

Mrs. Grier: This is an incredible distortion of the traditional role of the voluntary sector in

starting good programs which then, when they prove their usefulness, are frequently supported by provincial levels of government. I take it the minister is saying that if it is started by the voluntary sector in future without his permission, forget it, it will never get funding.

Given that the pilot program in Kitchener-Waterloo was given \$20,000 by his ministry and has served 20 families since last April, which at the rate that Access is seeing children would be \$1 million for a budget for Access—is the minister going to allow this program in Etobicoke to close down in December for the want of \$34,000, which is what it has asked for in its latest application?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would ask the honourable member to reflect on the immediately previous answer I gave her. I clearly did not say that they would not get funding, ever. I clearly did say that once we know the results of the two pilot programs presently in existence and make a decision as to the extent to which we would expand that particular service, this agency could very well get funding. I did not say they would never get funding.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. The minister knows there are over 30,000 extended care patients in nursing homes in Ontario and that this 30,000 figure for seniors represents some 70 per cent of the extended care residents in nursing institutions. Yet the minister is also aware that those institutions receive some 33 per cent less in funding than municipal homes for the aged, even though the nursing requirements, the cost of care and the need for improvements in those homes are exactly the same. Will the minister not end the blatant difference in government funding between nursing homes and municipally run homes for the aged?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: The leader of the third party may well know that the issue of funding of nursing homes is a subject that is before the courts. I am therefore unable to make comment.

Mr. Brandt: I find that response rather interesting, because the minister well knows that back in 1986 her predecessor in office indicated in a white paper that was released for seniors well before there was a court case, and in a document called *A New Agenda*, that: "The central initiative will be the development of new extended care legislation. The intent is to develop a single, improved act"—and I ask the

minister to listen carefully to this part—"which will apply to all providers and establish uniform criteria."

I ask the minister again, irrespective of the fact that this issue is before the court—and it is before the court because of the delays in response on the part of her government—will she now look at equalizing the funding between those two institutions so seniors in this province are treated equally right across the province?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: The goal that the leader of the third party has outlined as part of this government's new agenda for senior citizens still remains the goal of this government. Because of the case which is before the court, I am unable to move forward and unable to comment at this time.

1430

Mr. Brandt: I can tell the minister that there is a very simple solution to the dilemma that she has by way of the excuse she is using, indicating that this matter is before the court. Very simply, if she sits down with those nursing home operators and gives them equal funding, they will withdraw the court case which she forced them to bring against the province because of the delay in her program.

In 1986, she promised it. Her government has taken a position consistently indicating that it favours equalized funding, and I think it is a little late to hide behind the skirt of the court and indicate that she cannot make any comment now, simply because the courts are dealing with the issue.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Brandt: Will the minister meet and negotiate an equitable settlement so that seniors are treated fairly and forget the nonsense about the court?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I must repeat, I am unable to comment on details because the issue is before the court.

RENTERPRISE LOAN

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Minister of Housing with respect to the events that we discussed yesterday in the Legislature.

The *London Free Press* in today's news reports contains an interview with Lionel Bonhomme of Timmins, a former property owner. In it, Mr. Bonhomme confirms that, as far as he was concerned, he sold his land to Joe Fontana. He confirms that he had spoken to Mr. Fontana at least 20 times with respect to this land transaction and the development of that land, and the money

was still owing to him from that sale. Mr. Bonhomme confirms that Fontana had mentioned that he was working on the Premier's (Mr. Peterson) campaign and was his friend. This is in the London Free Press report today.

The Toronto Sun, in today's early edition, indicates that the Ministry of Housing officials confirmed that under the Renterprise program, an agreement was issued in February, 1987 to Advance Property Management Consultants Inc., of which Fontana was listed as a representative.

My question, because it is not answered in the Premier's statement, is: What specific role did Mr. Fontana play in the obtaining of this approval? Why was he allowed to market it through two different principal groups? Why will the minister not table all the documents, letters and correspondence and Mr. Sean Goetz-Gadon's notes with respect to this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is three questions.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Let me repeat for everyone the chain of events that took place.

On October 17, Antonio Torchia, Vincent Ciccone and Antonio Ciccone applied to Renterprise to build 45 units of housing at \$9,500 per unit. That is the support they wanted.

On February 20, 1987, the ministry approved the application for 45 units, as they had asked for, at \$7,400 a unit, which turned out to be \$333,000.

On July 6, 1987, there was a new owner, Eric Whalley Construction. It advised the ministry that it had bought the land on which this project was supposed to take place. It then applied to Renterprise to build 42 units, not the original 45, at \$7,400, and in that month Whalley Construction's application was approved by the ministry for a total of \$310,800.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: You asked a question. I am trying to answer it.

Currently, 50 per cent of that loan—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I want to answer this question. Fifty per cent of that loan has been advanced. The remaining part of it will be advanced when the construction is complete. I should tell members that Mr. Fontana was an employee of the company which made the original application. That is the story.

Mr. Pope: We have the admission so far from the minister that Mr. Fontana was a paid

employee and a friend of the Premier who made the application for the company. We have that so far.

Is the minister aware, in fact, that it was not Eric Whalley Construction that made the application or received the loan, but a numbered company that Eric Whalley was a director of? It was not a construction company at all that made the application, it was a numbered company.

Second, all negotiations with respect to the acquisition of this property were through Advance Property Management Consultants Inc., not through Mr. Whalley, not through any other numbered company, but Advance Property Management Consultants Inc., Vincent Ciccone, vice-president.

Does she know who the other officers of that company are and who stood to benefit from this land flip that she allowed to happen with public money?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The person whose name the member mentioned, Joe Fontana, was an employee of the company which made the original deal and which made the profit from the project. He did not make any profit. The deal did not involve taxpayers' money, the deal in which the profit was made.

The member said yesterday that the amount of money we gave to the Renterprise project was associated with the cost of the land. That is not true. The loan is based on the total value of the project, on local market conditions and on the number of units.

Mr. Brandt: You cannot build units without land.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: That is right, but the formula for Renterprise is based—

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Gentlemen, I want to answer the question. Do me the courtesy of listening to the answer.

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The way the Renterprise project worked, the loan is based on the total value of the project, on local market conditions and on the number of units. The ultimate producer of the units received a smaller loan than the commitment given to the original applicants.

Let me just repeat the key points I want to make. The original applicants did not receive any money from the government. As the land escalated in value, as per the member's description, the government commitment actually declined, and the program is resulting in the construction of 42 units in the town of Timmins.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: I have been quietly listening to the minister's explanation, and the longer I listened the more it seemed there is something more here than I thought in the first place.

I want to tell the minister that, when she says there is less government assistance in the project the second time around than the first time around, what she really means to say is that the number of units declined, not the assistance per unit. I would have thought she would want to be accurate in that. There was not a decline per unit in government support. There was a reduction of three units in the project. The financial commitment remained the same per unit as it was the first time, so she should not tell the people of this province that the government had less of a financial commitment per unit to this project over the—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: The minister should table all the projects right now and explain how she can justify a paid consultant who is a friend of the Liberals—the Premier opened his committee room—being allowed to peddle—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is easy for the member opposite to make allegations and dark hints. If he has something specific to say, he should say it.

What I want to say very clearly is that the original plan was to give the original group of people support for 45 units. Indeed, the second application came in for 42 units. We supported the 42 units. I said that very clearly. The total financial commitment did indeed go down. If you multiply \$7,400 by 42, you get a smaller number than if you multiply \$7,400 by 45. Even I, with my not hugely sophisticated arithmetic, can do that.

1440

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Once again, I just have to wait while you are wasting the time for the House.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The preamble of the Labour Relations Act says that it is in the interests of the workers of the province to organize and to engage in free collective bargaining. How long

will he allow Dr. John Mull and Canadian Medical Laboratories to flout the law of Ontario and deliberately stonewall the efforts of the 60 employees, mostly women, members of Locals 206 and 221 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union who have been locked out since June 3 of this year?

I am sure the minister is aware of the tactics that this owner is using, of the intransigence of his position and that this is the same owner who just some five years ago flatly refused—it took a couple of years to get the money to pay an order of the Inflation Restraint Board to these employees.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Hamilton East refers to a lockout which began on June 3 and, as he says, involves some 50 employees who are primarily women.

I should tell him, although I think perhaps he already knows, that mediation assistance has been provided by the Ministry of Labour on a number of occasions. The most recent of those occasions was September 20. The issue of tactics and the issue of the conduct of the parties has been of some moment, particularly in the Hamilton community, although I have heard expressions of concern from elsewhere as well.

In conjunction with those tactics, it is important to point out that there is now before the Ontario Labour Relations Board an application dealing with the issue of unfair labour practices. Obviously it would be inappropriate for me to comment on that matter as it proceeds before the board, other than to say that my own understanding is that the hearing under section 89 of the Labour Relations Act is scheduled for some time in late November or early December.

I should add as well, though, that mediators within the ministry have been in close contact on an ongoing basis with the parties and are in a position to meet with the parties whenever they are ready to proceed.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister is right. The last session with a mediator, Trevor Stevenson, was on September 20. At that time, the company, as has been its tactic, indicated some interest in the union's position. The union revised its demands downwards at that particular point in time, and yet nothing has happened. I am also aware that as late as yesterday, before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, the parties were told that this dispute should be settled in collective bargaining and not before the board.

I am wondering if the minister can tell us whether he will take a look at a direct board order because it is the only way he is going to get these

people together talking seriously. I think that may be the position of some of the members of his staff as well.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Obviously, I have to take into consideration the advice of my friend, the member for Hamilton East. At this point, though, I do not think it would be appropriate for me even to comment on the submissions that one party or another made at the mediations. It would obviously be up to the parties to reveal in a public way the quality and the nature of their offer and what took place within the mediation and after that.

I want to tell the member for Hamilton East as sincerely as I can that our mediators within the Ministry of Labour are staying in very close contact. It is a situation that has gone on a very long time. It is one that I do not think any of us can celebrate. I reiterate that it is a lockout, not a strike, and if he has any other suggestions he wants to bring to my attention or to the attention of the people within my ministry to find a way to bring this unfortunate lockout to a resolution, I would be perfectly willing to entertain them.

RENTERPRISE LOAN

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Minister of Housing. Could the minister indicate if it is normal and if she thinks it is appropriate to issue Renterprise approvals, as her official said yesterday afternoon, to a consulting company without a land site in the community that she issued the certificate of approval for? It did not have any land for a period of six months, until September 3, 1987, while she and her officials claim that the approval was in February 1987.

For six months, there was not even a site for the project that she is giving financial support to, and a principal and officer of the consulting company was allowed to purchase the land in trust for \$353,000 at 2:25 p.m. on September 3 and sell it at 2:25 p.m. on September 3 for \$420,000 to a numbered company.

Does the minister think it is proper management of provincial government housing programs to allow that kind of flip to take place? Why will she not table the documents on this matter?

An hon. member: Table your own documents.

Mr. Pope: I have.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: What the Renterprise program did was work with people in the private sector who were producing rental housing in markets where we saw that it was necessary. We gave them support on a per-unit basis on a

formula depending on the community, the geographic location and the costs associated with that community in order to create rental housing all over the province. The formula was based on the number of units and the market conditions in a local area. It was not based on the cost of any particular piece of land. The Renterprise program functioned that way.

In October, when I came in as minister, we decided not to continue the Renterprise program. The reason we decided to do that was that, in fact, it was not producing as many projects and units as we wanted, and we decided we could spend our resources more effectively in other programs. But during the time of the program, the criteria on which it was based were the number of units—so it was a per-unit amount—the market situation in the particular community and the costs in that community. It was not based on the cost of a specific piece of land.

Mr. Pope: Antonio Ciccone and Mr. Torchia know Mr. Bonhomme well. They meet each other every day of the week in Timmins. Virtually every week, they see each other. They do not need someone from London to introduce each other. I want to know why the minister gave Advance Property Management Consultants Inc. an approval under the Renterprise program and allowed it to exchange principals to Eric Whalley and a numbered company.

She knew that the total project cost is involved in the calculation, and the cost of the land is part of the total project cost. We are talking about a \$310,000 interest-free loan from this government, secured by a mortgage on title in favour of Ontario Mortgage Corp.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The question has been asked. The minister.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: At this point, only one half of this loan has been advanced. That is \$155,400, not the \$310,000 the member is talking about. The rest will be advanced when the construction is completed. The program worked in exactly the way I have described. It looked at the project cost and, in particular, the per-unit amount.

Let me stress again that the per-unit amount that was decided in February 1987 was exactly the same amount that was decided on in July 1987, and the project is now going to result in 42 units of rental housing in Timmins, according to the original plan of the Renterprise program.

COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Health. For some time now, the Simcoe District Health Council has indicated that its

priority for that county and for the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie is the location and approval of a computerized axial tomography scanner machine. Facts and figures have been given to the ministry indicating the costs that are now involved with transporting patients from the county area down to Toronto, and I have just received the most up-to-date figures from that hospital which show that last fiscal year, the nursing staff cost just for transporting CAT scanner patients was \$60,000, ambulance staff \$20,000, and the cost of the CAT scan use in Toronto \$200,000.

Because of these figures, I ask the minister, where is the ministry now with regard to approval of this particular type of equipment for the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie?

1450

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: For the information of the member, and I know his interest in this matter, the CAT scanner, as it is known, is an example of a new technology which I believe is one of the important challenges facing health care, and that is the evaluation and deployment of new technology. Technology is approved based on certain criteria; that is, the need that is identified and established, the hospital's ability and capacity, as well as referral patterns, case load and experience. The CAT scanner for Royal Vic in Barrie was ranked by the Simcoe District Health Council as its priority and it is under active review by the ministry.

Mr. Owen: The hospital has been made aware of the costs that are involved and I can advise the minister that as of now, the entire cost has been raised for this equipment for that hospital. I want to emphasize that I have been talking dollars, but all the time, almost daily, I receive letters and phone calls from families who advise of the problems that are involved in transporting the acutely ill or elderly people down to the Toronto hospitals.

I am also advised of the need for the same equipment by the surrounding areas of Alliston and Orillia, so that they can go to Barrie rather than have to come to the Toronto hospitals. Is there any way in which the minister could look at this again, with the ministry, to sort of expedite or accelerate the program?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member raises what I think is a very good point, and that is that the deployment of technology should in fact be on a regional basis and planned regionally, recognizing that not every hospital can or should have every piece of new technology.

As we do regional planning and consider the appropriate requirements for the region, we take into consideration the need to transfer between hospitals so that our vision of equity and access to effective quality health care, as close to home as possible and the very best that we can afford, in fact will become a reality as we look at the stresses and challenges that new technology offers us.

I want to stress to the member that I know the hospital takes every precaution, not only the Royal Vic but other hospitals, when it transfers patients for whatever reason, whether it is for diagnostic testing or other patient needs. I can assure the member that we are very aware of the situation in Barrie and that the CAT scanner at this time is under active review.

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Solicitor General about Judge Colter's public inquiry into the Niagara Regional Police situation. I wonder if the Solicitor General can tell us why the government is refusing to fund properly the work of the commission in the sense that it is not providing sufficient funds for legal representation for all those groups that will be appearing before this commission.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: It is not customary in most inquiries to provide legal costs to all parties having standing. The judge reviewed the groups and individuals who had standing before the hearing and decided, in fact, that three groups should be considered and were considered for funding. He commented, an opinion with which I concur, that the commission itself had its own means of funding. It is an inquiry looking into a Niagara region problem and it was reasonable to expect that since it had means within the region, it should look to its own responsibilities in this matter.

Mr. B. Rae: If this is a provincial inquiry into a problem affecting the Niagara region, I wonder if the minister can tell us why the government and the commission are not in fact properly funding the cost to the region for appearing before the commission. Surely the minister would agree that since it is a provincial inquiry, it is the responsibility of the provincial government to fund the inquiry properly.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: At the request of the police commission in that area, and in fact at its almost insistence that there was a need to look more closely at this by way of a public inquiry, the province called such a public inquiry. However, within this inquiry there is a particular interest in

a problem that relates to the Niagara region. It is customary in inquiries that where they relate to a specific area, that area has a special responsibility. The commission is not without means to fund its own legal costs, and for this reason it is seen as appropriate, as has been done in other such inquiries, for it to fund what is a consideration that will relate largely to the good of that area.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Harris: In the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The minister will be aware of allegations raised in the *Globe and Mail* yesterday, which I raised in the House, and then again this morning, about the extent to which land development in the area surrounding Metropolitan Toronto is virtually under the control of a small number of developers. In addition to owning from a half to two thirds of all the developable land in the area, the allegation is that they seem to be able to influence municipal politicians to their advantage in property zoning and development strategy.

Would the minister not agree, as minister responsible for municipal affairs, that these allegations are serious enough to bring into question the integrity of our municipal system and warrant a full investigation by his government?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The honourable member has just mentioned that they are allegations. If he has specific allegations, I suggest he present them to me in this House. My role is to deal with the structure of municipal government and to ensure that municipalities operate in an open and accountable way. I think my record is that I have had things brought to me by ratepayers' groups and we have acted on them. If he has something I should be looking into at this time, then he should bring something specific.

Mr. Harris: I am not sure how much more specific the *Globe and Mail* article could have been. Let me quote from today's article. "Three months ago, when"—I do not know how to pronounce the name; I presume I will when he calls me—"Mr. De Gasperis objected to a Vaughan council decision that could have delayed construction of one of his large subdivisions, he called an immediate meeting in the mayor's office.

"'When they yell jump, council jumps,' a former Vaughan politician said. In this case, council sheepishly reversed its decision a week later."

That is a serious allegation. There are more, which I am sure the minister has read, and if he has not, he ought to have and will want to read in the paper.

I ask the minister, does this not interest the minister in any way in the least? Is he not the slightest bit concerned with these allegations that are being made in Canada's national paper? Is he not the slightest bit concerned with those allegations floating out there? As the minister responsible for municipal affairs, why, if he is the slightest bit concerned, will he not launch a formal investigation into these allegations in order to get to the bottom of this question?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We assess all applications on the merit of the application and on the merit of the facts. Some people complain that we take too long in processing those applications, but let me tell him that we look at them on those merits and that is the way we deal with it.

Now, if he has something further that he feels we should look into, let me know; but let me tell him this: We moved to give greater accountability and respectability to municipal politics when we brought in the new Municipal Elections Act, when we brought forward the contributions and the accountability, by which if anyone feels there is something wrong in municipal politics, all he has to do is go to the office of the clerk and he can see who has contributed to that particular candidate.

1500

RACE RELATIONS

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship with responsibility for race relations. About four or five days ago, I read in the press that he had announced a program of some \$500,000 for assisting innovative community-based groups to carry out projects, provided they were nonprofit community organizations, with reference to race relations. I have a constituent who has a particular problem and I would like to find out from him what the parameters of that program are.

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I think all of us in this House appreciate that this is a fundamentally important area of creating a positive climate for race relations in this province. Some of the most effective groups in doing this are community groups, school boards, municipalities and our native community, and we felt there was an opportunity to encourage them in the development of positive race relations programs by putting together a program where we would provide financial assistance. That is what we

have done. So the groups that are eligible are community groups, school boards, municipalities and the native community.

In terms of the types of projects, we are anxious for public education projects such as conferences on race relations. We would support institutions that want to develop race relations policies and programs. We would also support special projects such as needs assessments, research projects for community groups and those institutions I talked about. That is who is eligible and those are the kinds of projects. As I say, we have allocated about \$500,000 per year to this grant program.

Mr. Callahan: I will get more specific. In my community, a month and a half or two months ago, an unfortunate incident occurred where one of the residents of my riding placed on her lawn a sign saying, "No Pakis are welcome." This was brought to my attention by one of my constituents who is, in fact, Pakistani, a Muslim. We attempted to have the matter dealt with through the Criminal Code. We communicated with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and were advised that the present provisions of the Criminal Code do not provide for that type of prosecution.

I was advised by the Attorney General that the federal Minister of Justice, apparently on recommendation of the Ontario Law Reform Commission, is conducting hearings into perhaps changing the legislation to provide for a much broader scope in dealing with issues such as this and other issues.

What I would like to know is whether a nonprofit organization such as the Peel Multicultural Council of my community might be able to secure some of the funds provided in that \$500,000 grant for purposes of preparing a brief to make that available to the commission as they travel around the country.

Hon. Mr. Phillips: If I might comment on the incident and then on the suggestion, it is incidents like that which I think all of us find completely unacceptable. In that particular case, our race relations directorate and the local police were both involved in attempting to mediate that situation. Those are situations, as I say, that I find most distressing.

In terms of the member's specific suggestion, if he will recall the grants I mentioned, there was one grant category called special projects. I think if an organization like the Peel Multicultural Council, which is a nonprofit community group, was involved in it, there is a good chance it could fall into one of those grant categories I talked about. My suggestion to the member would be to

have them contact our organization and we would be happy to look at that in terms of the possibility of funding it for that third grant category I talked about.

TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation regarding Bill 88, the minister's attempt to deregulate and open up Ontario's \$3-billion trucking industry to a one-way American invasion.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court of Ontario ruled that the minister has been issuing licences illegally to American and Canadian truckers, sabotaging the legitimate role of the Ontario Highway Transport Board to ensure that licences are issued only in the public interest. Given the Supreme Court decision, is the minister now going to subject our trucking industry to the uncertainty of years of further legal battles over a dangerous, flawed bill; or instead, will the minister now withdraw Bill 88 for complete reconsideration, rather than plowing ahead with the clause-by-clause amendments that are to start this afternoon and Monday?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member is, I think, referring to Friday's split decision by the Divisional Court wherein it ruled on the Motor Vehicle Transport Act, which is the federal transport act, not the acts we are dealing with here in Ontario and in committee yesterday and today.

There are legal implications in the decision because it was split. I am not of a legal background and I will not attempt to comment, but the stated case that was before the court dealt only with the MVTA, which is the federal act—I have to emphasize that, the federal act—that came into force early this year.

We are talking about the validating, the signing, frankly, of licences and the manner in which it has been done since 1954, about who signs them. That is what the issue is about.

Mr. Pouliot: The minister knows very well that it was his signature on the document. He also knows very well about the obstruction of the board by a small group in his ministry. Their attempt has been very raw, very direct, and while the members of the board are experts in terms of transportation and have been doing it for over 30 years, they are not very well armed when it comes to a political struggle. They have to go to the minister for an appointment in the first place.

The minister seems to be very determined, no matter what, to push through with Bill 88. Can he give the House the guarantee that with the

possible enactment of Bill 88, public hearings will still be guaranteed under Bill 88?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: First, I reject the statement made by my friend the member for Lake Nipigon that there is any kind of obstruction within the ministry or with anyone affected in the employ of the ministry or with the Ontario Highway Transport Board. I repeat that the decision before the court was whether or not a political servant on Bloor Street or a political servant in Downsview physically signs the licence.

DRUGS FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Mr. Villeneuve: My question is for the Minister of Health. The minister will know that last week the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation appeared before her commission looking into prescription drug use and costs. Given the sympathetic response of the commission, will the minister act now to help cystic fibrosis victims, instead of waiting for an interim report and literally discriminating against a group of very needy patients?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the principle everyone in this House would agree upon—as I have said on numerous occasions, health care is not a partisan issue—is that no one should go without needed drugs because of inability to pay.

We recognize that there are new drugs being brought on the market. We take a look at the \$600 million that the Ontario drug benefit plan is costing now and the results of that. We know from the Goldberg drug utilization review that up to 30 per cent of hospital admissions of the elderly are because of adverse drug reactions.

I was so concerned about this that I established the Lowy drug inquiry, and I met with the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and its people and I said to them that what I have asked Dr. Lowy to do is look at the whole picture of the Ontario drug benefit plan, because I am concerned about it from a quality-of-care point of view.

I asked them to go to Dr. Lowy and I have asked Dr. Lowy to give me recommendations by the end of October. I am hoping to have some interim recommendations from him because I believe that we are all concerned about the Ontario drug benefit plan and the fact that there are people in situations now where, while we are dealing with them on an individual basis, we know that new drugs are coming forward and they are having difficulties.

1510

Mr. Villeneuve: The minister knows that Ontario is the only province that provides no

support at all for cystic fibrosis sufferers unless they are on social assistance or welfare. I would like the minister to realize that it is ironic that at a time when this government is wrestling with health costs, the minister wants to preserve a system which forces these people on to social assistance and to be welfare recipients.

Why is the minister continuing to deny support? I know she is looking for the report from the head of her inquiry, but I think she must move and she must move very soon to support these people in the very real needs they have financially, and to support the use of their medication, which is a must to keep them alive.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member is inaccurate when he says we do not support cystic fibrosis patients. In fact, I believe we do up to the age of 18. The difficulty is that after the age of 18, there is no consistency across the province. Drugs are provided through different hospital-based programs and they vary from region to region.

What I have said in the interim is that we want to make sure that nobody, because of an inability to pay, does without needed drugs, that those individual cases be referred to us in the short term while we look at the whole system to make sure there is equity in access to those drugs across this province for cystic fibrosis patients.

That is just one example of the number of new drugs and the diseases which, in fact, we know are daily putting enormous stresses and strains on our health system and for which we have to find new and appropriate ways of responding. That is the reason I asked Dr. Lowy to bring forward recommendations by the end of this month. Because of the concerns I have about the drug benefit plan, as well as meeting needs on an equitable basis, especially when we are finding new technologies and new drug therapies, I want to make sure that the people of this province get the very best therapeutic results from our drug benefit program.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mr. Adams: My question is for the Minister of Skills Development. In the Peterborough area we are trying to deepen and widen the pool of skilled workers and provide people with skills for the future. Concern has been expressed to me about the level of funding of apprenticeship programs. Are such funds at risk and can the minister assure me and my constituents that apprenticeships are still a viable career option?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I want to thank the honourable member for Peterborough for his question. I can understand his concern. We were

extremely concerned on this side as the government of Ontario.

I know the member knows, but for those who may not know, the apprenticeship program was funded by the federal government since 1944. It pays for most of the in-school training costs. You must have read, Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure, because you are such a well-read man, as well as the member for Peterborough, that they had cut that funding and that caused what is the concern of the member for Peterborough, that the apprenticeship program is in question to be funded.

This government responded immediately to see that those apprentices out there would not go without training. Lately, just about two or three weeks ago, the government responded with \$5 million to come back with the shortfall that the federal government neglected to do. The member can assure his constituents that they can continue to do the good work they are doing, especially the Peterborough Industrial Training Institute and the wonderful work they are doing out there. He can assure them that this government is behind them with the apprenticeship program.

PETITION

NURSING SERVICES

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a petition here from some 5,701 citizens across Ontario:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We strongly disagree with the college of nurses' proposed revised standards and levels in nursing practice. Many questions and concerns have not been addressed following the CNO information sessions.

"We urge the college of nurses to cease and desist promulgating such divisive acts."

This is dated October 27, 1988, and I have signed it and will hand it over to the House.

MOTION

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding any previous order of the House, the estimates for francophone affairs be considered in the committee of supply following the consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Revenue.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INTERIM SUPPLY

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for interim supply for the period commencing November 1, 1988, and ending December 31, 1988.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is a pleasure to resume the adjourned debate of the interim supply motion. I want to place on the record a few concerns that I have, particularly as they involve agriculture and as they involve eastern Ontario.

As the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) yesterday mentioned, he was not quite sure when his five-year Ontario Farm-Start program ran out of money. It did run out of money a very short seven months after being initiated.

I have to just question the minister as to the wisdom of his terminating the beginning farmer assistance program which was in place prior to the farm-start program. A program that had been initiated by the previous government, a program that had served beginning farmers well, a program that was easy to administer, was replaced by a program very difficult to administer, a program initiated to last five years, a program that lasted a mere six months. I wonder where financial assistance will be coming from, with the farm-start program now terminated some 54 or 55 months prior to the time when it should have gone to.

I am pleased to see the parliamentary assistant to the minister here this afternoon. Possibly he will be able to shed some light, because we had very little light shed on the subject when I questioned the minister last Tuesday.

Another area of concern to me was that \$20 million was a so-called within-ministry saving, one that could have very easily been applied to the Ontario farm management safety and repairs program, a very popular program which was also allowed to run out of money and did not go to benefit the people it was initially thought up and brought in for.

The land stewardship program has many, many unanswered questions. Financial problems are plaguing this program. The idea is an excellent one. It has to be put on the rails and it has to be made to work. Right now, it leaves a great deal to be desired.

Last summer we had a rather difficult situation to deal with in that we had severe weed pollution in Lake St. Francis, in the area of Lancaster. I was called by some of my constituents on a

Saturday morning, as a matter of fact the Saturday morning on which the Glengarry Highland Games were held, and I went down to Lancaster and viewed a very major problem, a pollution problem which endangered the local residents' health, a weed accumulation in some of the bays that is difficult to explain.

After repeated presentations and demands to the Ministry of Natural Resources, a week later we did get some \$25,000 to provide some relief, some removal of a blanket of weeds, the likes of which many people, people who knew the river well, had never seen before.

1520

I think we have to initiate an ongoing control program. This is an area that changed very dramatically in 1959 when the St. Lawrence Seaway was initiated, where a large hydroelectric power project was initiated just upstream from where the problem occurred. We had some environmentalists tell us that because of this fact, because of the fact that man had changed the course of this river, changed the natural flow of this river, we ran into major weed problems and are going to continue experiencing these major weed problems in Lake St. Francis.

I am and will be requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources look at this on an ongoing basis and initiate some preventive medicine, as opposed to effectively trying to manage Lake St. Francis and that problem from crisis to crisis. The Raisin Region Conservation Authority was most helpful and did provide a lot of the manpower needed to correct that problem.

It is also noted that Toronto, one of the most economically vibrant areas anywhere in North America, now has a deputy minister to serve it. We also notice that the northern part of Ontario has a minister, the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), to look after some of its problems.

There was an old saying, prior to this government's coming to power, that Ontario begins and ends at Kingston, but I must report that Ontario now begins and ends somewhere between Oshawa and Belleville, and it is moving farther west. The eastern section of this great province is almost totally forgotten.

I see the House leader here, and of course he comes from that beautiful area in and around Pembroke. I wonder if the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the people in power are listening to the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). I know he made a very interesting statement the other day in the Legislature, trying to defend the

position of the government regarding some changes that have occurred in this Legislature.

However, I had some difficulty. Accepting the fact that the member is as articulate as he is—he speaks very well when he gets on his feet, but we do not hear much of him lately—I am afraid he does not have a great deal of clout when he sits at the cabinet table.

Mr. Speaker, I know you, coming from a neighbouring riding to the one I come from, will agree with me that the eastern part of Ontario must not continue to be overlooked the way it has been in the last three years. A deputy minister for Toronto may well be needed, and I am not quite sure why, but many times we have situations come up in eastern Ontario where a change of zoning or an approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food would bring capital expenditures to the area.

I, as a member, and I am sure you, sir, as a member in a neighbouring riding, are for ever and always fighting the bureaucrats, the bureaucracy which has very little concern about the way people operate. That is a rather sad situation: 8,000 additional civil servants to keep the residents of Ontario whipped into line.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You're the former bureaucrat.

Mr. Villeneuve: If I was a bureaucrat, I was one who tried to bring a bit of common sense to the area, and we are lacking that right now.

Interjections.

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, I know interjections are not in order and I will continue addressing you, sir, and try to disregard some of the comments being made.

The situation that a minister for Metropolitan Toronto was brought in by this government makes one wonder indeed if Ontario will continue to have a situation where the economically favoured Toronto and environs will continue to be economically favoured and those areas which happen to be beyond the fringe, so to speak, particularly to the east, will continue to be overlooked.

The member for Renfrew North will recall well a promise made by the then Leader of the Opposition in 1985 that the time to repair the Queensway would be shortened by at least two years. The Queensway is still a mess. On the east side of Ottawa it is still a mess—I use it regularly—and we are soon to go into 1989.

With respect to the twinning of Highway 16, we are not sure now whether the Premier and the ministers responsible for eastern Ontario even remember that they suggested Highway 16

would be twinned into a four-lane highway, because right now we have just a bit of a cow path leading north from the Johnstown bridge. We need to have that improved.

I have a number of other areas. I will talk about a couple more and then I will relinquish, because I know a number of members want to make presentations as well.

The South Nation River Conservation Authority, one of the oldest conservation authorities in this province, runs through your riding, Mr. Speaker, as it runs through mine and through that of the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) to the west. We have a major project which is on hold.

We have discussed it with the parliamentary assistant (Mr. McGuigan) to the Minister of Natural Resources. We had a long meeting and had the full authority down. We have major flooding problems in the south branch of the South Nation River. It is an area that may not be considered threatening to life and limb; however, it is certainly very threatening to the agricultural area that it drains, or fails to drain.

There is a project now which has been fairly well documented and engineered which will cost probably in excess of \$10 million by today's standards, but we are talking about many thousands of acres which flood not only at springtime but during the growing season, which causes an immeasurable amount of damage to the farmers and to the crops that are growing there. It is something that must be corrected and rectified in the not-too-distant future. I fully intend to address that on an ongoing basis with both the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Many areas of eastern Ontario have to be addressed economically. We are the weak sisters, the poor cousins, of the rest of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, I know you will agree with me, as you represent a very similar area to mine, that we must continue to encourage this government to recognize the problems that we face in eastern Ontario. If we do not have a minister or a deputy minister, as seems to be the in thing now for different regions, we will certainly have to be looked at more closely and in a more favourable fashion than we have in the past. I know I have your support for that and I hope I have the support of all the members who represent areas in eastern Ontario.

Thank you very much. It has been a pleasure participating in this interim supply debate.

Mr. Sterling: The Speaker will be glad to know that this is an eastern Ontario day, because

we do not hear very much from the government back-benchers from eastern Ontario about the problems we have there. I was happy to hear my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry talk about some of the concerns that we have in eastern Ontario.

In the Ottawa-Carleton area we have, I believe, seven members from the government. I am the one member of the opposition representing either the New Democratic Party or the Progressive Conservative Party. Therefore, a heavy burden falls upon me, because I do not think eastern Ontario and Ottawa-Carleton have ever been treated in a shabbier manner by any government for a long period of time. Not only has it been treated shabbily, but the fact of the matter is that we have seven Liberal MPPs gathering in eastern Ontario, holding caucuses and patting each other on the back about what wonderful things they are doing for our region. I saw on television not too long ago—in fact, last week—the member for Ottawa South (Mr. McGuinty) being interviewed by the television after the Carleton Board of Education had been in front of these seven MPPs.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I am not invited to these particular meetings, as you might imagine. This is a Liberal caucus.

1530

An hon. member: Don't be negative.

Mr. Sterling: You know, one of the Liberal backbenchers is saying that I am negative with regard to this government. I am negative with regard to this government because it does not give our area a fair shake. If we got a fair shake in eastern Ontario, I would be happy to give them congratulations.

Dalton McGuinty walked out of that meeting after the Carleton Board of Education had pleaded with them for some capital funding, and I want to put on the record exactly what this government has done for the Carleton Board of Education.

In 1987, in the capital announcements, the Carleton Board of Education requested \$35 million. We are in an area that is expanding rapidly. We need school spaces. The number of portables is increasing at an alarming rate. They asked for \$35 million and they were given \$4.6 million. That was about 13 per cent of what they requested. The former Minister of Education, who is now the House leader, is here. That was in 1987, and I thought during the campaign I heard the Premier come into the Ottawa-Carleton area and say he would not forget about Ottawa-Carleton in the next capital year.

This is what Dalton McGuinty thinks is a fair shake in 1988. In 1988, the Carleton Board of Education, because it was given only \$4.6 million of a needed \$35 million in 1987, had to go up to \$45 million in 1988. The population is expanding rapidly. Since the election last year, as a matter of fact, Kanata, one of the areas I represented, has grown from about 29,000 people to about 34,000 or 35,000 people. That is how fast it is expanding from year to year.

But last week, Dalton approves and says, "The government treated the Carleton Board of Education fairly." This member speaks not only for himself; he speaks for all seven MPPs in the area: Mr. Daigeler, who represents an area under the Carleton Board of Education, and the former parliamentary assistant, Yvonne O'Neill, who represents the area. They asked for \$45 million; they got \$6.5 million. That is what they were granted in capital allocations in 1988. They got about 10 per cent of what they asked.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: I can tell I am striking a nerve, because we can hear a lot of chirping from the Ottawa-Carleton members here in the back-ground, and they have every reason to be embarrassed. They should be very defensive, as they are.

Now, those are hard, cold facts that the caucus from Ottawa-Carleton approves of. I tell members, I do not approve of them and I do not think the people who have children in the Carleton Board of Education approve of them. They do not approve of them, and those members ought to be ashamed of the position the Liberal caucus took in Ottawa-Carleton with regard to the funding they are giving the Carleton Board of Education.

To even compound the problem of capital grants, not only did they cut back the Carleton Board of Education with regard to giving it money—

Mr. Daigeler: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I was listening to the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) on television, and I noticed that the member was referring to other members by name instead of by riding. I would be pleased if you would remind the member that in this House we refer to other members by their ridings.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Carleton will take note?

Mr. Sterling: I will take note. I only say that the public from Ottawa-Carleton does not have an opportunity to come to the Legislature, so when I refer to "the member for Nepean," they

might not in fact know that is Hans Daigeler—I wanted to be certain—and that the member for Ottawa South is Dalton McGuinty and the member for Ottawa-Rideau is Yvonne O'Neill, all of whom approve of a grant of \$6.5 million for the Carleton Board of Education out of a need of \$45 million.

They think that is just great, all of the Liberal members in that area. In fact, the former parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of Education, the member for Ottawa-Rideau—for the people back home, that is Yvonne O'Neill—thought \$6.5 million was okay as well. Not only were we shortchanged in terms of capital—

Mr. Daigeler: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you would point out to the member for Carleton the purpose of the regulation we have in this House, which is to refer to the riding. Unless we all follow the rules, I think all members should be free to refer to members by their names.

Mr. Sterling: I think, quite frankly, that we should consider changing the rules of the Legislature because of the fact that we are dealing with television. At the bottom of the TV screen, they will put "Norman Sterling, PC member for Carleton," but when I refer to the member for Nepean, Hans Daigeler, they will not know who that would be unless I said it. Anyway, I will continue.

I was saying with regard to the capital that not only was the Carleton Board of Education shortchanged in capital, but was shortchanged in terms of operating funds as well, because this government has failed to live up to its election promises, which were repeated once again in 1985, that it would bring the share of its funding to 60 per cent of the cost of education. What has happened in Ottawa-Carleton, for the Carleton Board of Education in particular, is that it dropped the funding by about four per cent or five per cent in one year.

Members know who picks up that cost. It is the taxpayers of Nepean. The member for Nepean, Mr. Daigeler, would know that, of course, that through his government's efforts in paying less of the provincial share, something it directly promised it would not do in the last election, which will hopefully be remembered in the next provincial election, the member for Nepean's, Mr. Daigeler's, constituents, the property taxpayers, have to pick up more of the bill. Their property taxes are a direct result of electing Mr. Daigeler, Yvonne O'Neill and the other members of the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Regarding the Carleton Board of Education, the only thing I can say is that it got shafted in capital grants in 1987 and in 1988, and it got shafted in terms of operating grants as well in those two years. I say it is shameful that the chairman of the Ottawa caucus for the seven Liberal members would take it upon himself and think this was just fine and dandy.

The other thing I want to briefly mention, which was mentioned by my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, was the—

Mr. Daigeler: What is his name?

1540

Mr. Sterling: Noble Villeneuve. They all know him in eastern Ontario and they know him as the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry because he has been elected three times now, so he is well known in his area, as the honourable government House leader would well know.

At any rate, I want to talk briefly about the Queensway because when we were back in power prior to 1985, we heard the Liberals talk about finishing construction on the Queensway.

I will never forget when the now Premier, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), came to Ottawa-Carleton and said: "This is taking too long. The construction of the Queensway is taking far too long. If we are in power, we will be able to finish that in two years, in 1987." That was the year, 1987. Then when they got into power, barely a month or two after they got into power, it was back to 1988. That was the year the Tories were promising to finish the Queensway.

Well, guess what, folks? Do members know when the Queensway is going to be finished? In 1993, we are going to have the Queensway completed, a mere six years after the Premier promised it would be finished in his election promises of 1985. That is what he promised. I only say that the commitment of the Liberal government in this area, again in terms of Ottawa-Carleton and eastern Ontario, is shameful.

The other matter that I would like to bring up, which is a very small matter in terms of money but I think is very important to a number of people in the Ottawa-Carleton area, is that this government, through the Ministry of Health, funded—I lauded them for funding it—a palliative care program in the Ottawa-Carleton area. That required only a very small amount of money—I believe it was \$60,000 or \$65,000—in order to get a co-ordinator, which was necessary. It was a \$50,000 grant, I believe, to the Elisabeth

Bruyère Health Centre. It was a one-year grant and it expired last May.

Mr. Speaker, you know how important a palliative care program is. Palliative care primarily is involved with people who have a shorter time to live, and the palliative care program takes care of methods to make those last months, days or weeks a little easier. It deals with providing counselling and with medicine that will relieve pain.

The program is out of money since May, and now the operation is being provided for by charitable foundations. Dr. John Forster, who is the head of the family medicine department at the University of Ottawa and chairman of the palliative care association, indicated his frustration with regard to this government. He blames this government dead on for not funding this program. They lead them down the garden path. They say, "Here is the money for one year," and then they cut them off.

He talks about the palliative care program and I think his words are worth repeating: "It's not glamorous. We're not doing heart transplants on Third World orphans," Dr. Forster said, "I'll be damned if I have to go out and sell chocolate bars to provide for the legitimate health care needs of my community. That really hurts." Now the United Way could not step in and give him a hand.

I wish the Ottawa caucus of the Liberals would see to the fact that this group gets this kind of funding instead of chortling and having meetings that do not seem to come to any conclusion or do not seem to bring any benefit to our area, and they have a press conference after and talk about how things are rosy and pat each other on the back. Let's get some help for the Palliative Care Foundation in Ottawa. I care about those people because some of them are my constituents. I care about those people whether they are the constituents of any of the members in this particular riding or in any of the ridings.

The other thing I would like to mention, and it was mentioned briefly by the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), is the fact that there seems to be a great desire on the part of this government to create deputy ministers of all different areas. We have a deputy minister of Toronto now. We have a deputy minister in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology for the north. We have a ministry for the north.

Where the hell is eastern Ontario in all of this? Does eastern Ontario not have its own special problems that have to be dealt with? We do not

have any representative with regard to the needs of eastern Ontario. In fact, I believe the chairman of the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. lives in the city of Toronto. I would hope that if in fact there is going to be an emphasis on region by region, eastern Ontario will finally be recognized in the manner it deserves and should have.

One last thing I want to bring to the fore was that I was actually amused at the resolution brought forward by the member for Ottawa-Rideau (Mrs. O'Neill). I guess it is a face-saving resolution we have in front of the House. I only hope she carries it forward and debates it. I think it will be quite interesting to debate here in the Legislature, because of the sorry record of this particular Liberal government in this area.

That resolution reads, "That, in the opinion of this House, the issue of the location of the new national space agency has become unnecessarily divisive between provinces; that such initiatives should be founded on existing strengths, recognizing that the aerospace industry in Canada is predominantly shared by Ontario and Quebec and the administrative functions based in Ottawa/Hull; that therefore, the logical location for the space agency is in the national capital region."

That is pretty good, but it is about two years late, because in January 1987, a year and a half ago, I raised this issue with the Treasurer, who was Deputy Premier. If we go back in terms of the whole national space agency question, it was announced in the throne speech of the federal government in October 1986. I and anybody who was doing his groundwork back home in Ottawa-Carleton had heard that the province of Quebec was lobbying hard and fast for the national space agency.

Mr. Harris: Where was Ontario?

Mr. Sterling: Where was Ontario? I asked the Treasurer on January 15, 1987, what this province was doing to locate the national space agency in Ottawa-Carleton. Nothing. There had not been any communication; there had not been anything done by this government. About six months later, the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), mentioned it in his speech. Meanwhile, Quebec was in there lobbying away. They were so good at lobbying that not only did they lobby the government side, but they lobbied the opposition party, the federal Liberal Party.

Mr. Harris: What happened there?

Mr. Sterling: I will you what happened there, just because you are asking that question. Do you know where John Turner wants the national space agency? The leader of the Liberal Party,

John Turner, wants the national space agency in Montreal, Quebec. I thought a Liberal was a Liberal was a Liberal. Yvonne, do you not agree with your national leader, John Turner? That is what Sheila Copps used to say.

The Deputy Speaker: The member will address his remarks through the Speaker.

Mr. Sterling: Do you not believe in what the national Liberal leader of our country believes in? This particular resolution is in direct conflict with what the national Liberal leader of this country is saying.

1550

I have raised this issue on a number of occasions. I want to say that the MPs in Ottawa, the federal members of Parliament, have been active in trying to pursue the location of the national space agency in Ottawa-Carleton. That includes all three parties in that case: the Tories, the Liberals and the New Democrats. But here, there was only one party concerned about the national space agency, and that was represented on this side by me. It was the Progressive Conservatives who were concerned about the national space agency.

I hope the member for Ottawa-Rideau brings this forward so we can really find out what this government has done. I think if she digs deeply enough in her files, she will find they are Johnny-come-latelies in this whole affair, the cart after the—

Mr. Villeneuve: The wrong end of the horse.

Mr. Sterling: The wrong end of the horse, as my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry says. They are really bringing up the tail on this one.

Anyway, I am really quite concerned about this government's attitude towards Ottawa-Carleton. We had approval for Highway 416.

Mr. Villeneuve: Just before the election.

Mr. Sterling: Yes, just before the election. I believe it was August 31, 1987, for Highway 416, to have a major four-lane highway from Ottawa to Highway 401; August 31, 1987, just before the last election.

What has happened in the last year and a half? I have not seen anything happen. The ground is there. The surveyors are not even on the land yet. Maybe they are waiting for the next election to get the surveyors out. That is what they are waiting for.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: They may think it is a joke, but I believe a commitment is necessary so that we can

have a proper entrance to the nation's capital from Highway 401. This not only will benefit the people of Ottawa-Carleton but will benefit the constituents of my good friends the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and the member for Leeds-Grenville, both of whom have been assisting me in pushing this project forward.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: Why is there no seniors' conference east of Belleville? We have seniors' conferences all over this province.

Mr. Sterling: I know. I noticed that the other day.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: Do they consider Belleville east? I was in eastern Ontario last night.

Mr. Sterling: My friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) was in the riding of the member for Lanark-Renfrew (Mr. Wiseman) last night.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sterling: I understand that the member for Nipissing gave a very inspirational speech and talked about the lack of commitment of this government to eastern Ontario and the waste of funding we have here.

I would like to digress briefly. I want to talk briefly about a matter that I think is very important, and that is the whole attitude of this government towards the release of information. We are experiencing increasing difficulties with getting information from this government. It was exhibited by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Grandmaitre) not too long ago. In fact, it was in the papers today that, in spite of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario saying he must release pertinent property information, he says: "I am not going to do it. I am not going to release information. It is my information. It is not yours, the public's information."

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like the member to show me a copy of that statement or the clipping in the newspaper where he has read this. If not, I think the member should apologize.

Mr. Sterling: The reason I might have made that inference is that I was looking through my notes here for the newspaper story, but because of the heckling of the Liberal government backbenchers, I did not go through all of the information. I believe, in fact, that what the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) said was

that he was going to appeal the decision of the information commissioner.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have never said this. I would like the honourable member to produce those clippings or a memo.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Or resign.

Mr. Sterling: I think resigning might be the easiest of the three. Because I do not have the documents in front of me, I will withdraw that allegation, but there certainly was a resistance on the part of the minister to hand over the information immediately. The fact of the matter is that there is a resistance on the part of this government to give information of all kinds.

Today I got a copy of the letter from the Premier, because I asked in July of this year for any of the polls that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) had in his possession. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology stalled me until October, when he told me he did have a poll that was not published. That poll dated back to January and it was on free trade. The government was hiding this poll. It did not table it even though it had it in its possession.

I was kind of amused. I will read the letter the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) got from the Premier, because he asked the same question of the Premier: "I am replying to your request. After a thorough search of our files, no records of polls not tabled were found to exist."

About a week ago, we were informed that, in fact, the poll that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology gave to me was lodged in the Office of the Premier. We do not know, when we ask a question, whether they just shuffle the poll from one office to the other to avoid the request or just what is going on.

Anyway, with regard to the poll that I did receive a copy of, I was told that this was only part of the poll. I invite members to guess what: The other part was pulled from this particular free trade poll because it was political in nature. Of course, my question is, who is paying for what here? Is the Ontario government paying for polling? Is the Liberal Party paying for polling? Who is it being used for? Are they using it, or is it going to their federal brethren with regard to this particular political issue?

We have a poll that was produced in January 1988. If I had not asked for the poll, it would never have been produced. I got only half of the poll. The government failed to produce the other information that I asked for, which was the letter commissioning the poll. I asked them for the costs of the poll. They have not given that to me.

They also have not agreed to sit down with me and set out a schedule as to the provision of these kinds of documents in the future, which I am entitled to under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

I bring that to the attention of the Legislature once again and will continue to do so until either I get a favourable ruling from the freedom of information commissioner, who is now looking into the situation, or this government starts to act in an open manner and gives the public information which has been paid for by the public.

With that last remark, I will now sit down, but I only hope that my remarks with regard to eastern Ontario will not fall on deaf ears and that the Treasurer will pay a little more attention to the caucus from eastern Ontario and Ottawa-Carleton, even though I do not sit in it.

1600

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to avail myself of standing order 20(b) just to take a few moments, because my good friend the member for Carleton has said some things that I think should be at least commented upon from this side. I am not going to make a lengthy speech; that is not my way, and I know the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) is going to engage in this debate very shortly.

The member for Carleton was going on some moments ago, much to the excitement of the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black), about capital funding, particularly as it related to the national capital area and the Carleton Board of Education.

I know my friend from Vanier would want me to reflect upon that occasion four years ago, in another era, with another government, when this very distinguished member, a former member of the Treasury bench in the Davis administration, was part of a fantastic experience. I remember it well because I was then on the other side of the aisle.

There is, in his part of the national capital, something called the Barr Haven community, which is a very vocal and outstanding community group. I can remember when the then Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, as one of the local members, together with the former member for Carleton, Mr. Mitchell, were begging with the then Minister of Education, the Honourable Dr. Bette Stephenson, for some money, any money to quell these people in Barr Haven, because in those bad old days there were about 65 million to 70 million capital dollars, unlike today. Under the Nixon-Peterson era,

encouraged by people like the member for Ottawa-Rideau, the member for Nepean (Mr. Daigeler) and others, it is not \$65 million but \$300 million for each of the following three years.

The poor member for Carleton had to go begging and pleading for a few shekels to the door of the Management Board of Cabinet. I will never forget the meltdown of the then Minister of Education, who treated the honourable member with much more disdain and with far fewer dollars than our generous friend, the now Treasurer. That is the record. That is the reality, and this honourable member ought to remember.

Mrs. O'Neill: The member for Carleton obviously has not been home lately, because the board of trade, the mayors, the chairmen of the school boards and the regional health council have all said they have never seen such a presence of provincial government in Ottawa-Carleton. We have met with these groups consistently. We have taken this year over \$40 million in capital into the school system of Ottawa-Carleton, capital funds.

The other thing the member for Carleton was talking about is operating grants. The reason the grants to the Carleton Board of Education went down is that it is the fastest-growing area, both commercially and residentially, which he represents, I represent and the member for Nepean represents; that is why the assessment base has broadened so well, because the economy of this province is so strong. Therefore, the grants can go to boards that are much more in need and are not growing as quickly. Equity in action.

The space agency is another matter altogether. Unfortunately, the member for Carleton does not know the activity of this government in that area. It takes two full pages to tell the interventions of this government, from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to the Premier to all of us who represent that area. We have consistently done that. Over the last two years the record is there. We have the correspondence, and through freedom of information he has access to that. That is all I would like to say.

Mr. Daigeler: For the information of Norm—since we are getting rather friendly in this House, I would like to pursue this tradition—I would just like to inform him that the province has been very generous towards the Ottawa-Carleton area, and very much so because of the very valiant efforts on behalf of the eight members from eastern Ontario in this House. I would just like to point out to him, for example, some of the headlines that have appeared recently in the newspapers.

Perhaps with all his other duties, he does not have time to read them.

For example: "Province Gives \$130,000 to Ottawa-Nepean Disabled Games"; "McLeod Announces Grant for Residents' Beds to Carleton University—\$5.2 million"; "Daigeler Announces Funding for Expansion of Home Support Services for Nepean Seniors—\$55,000"; "Ottawa-Carleton Receives \$1,246,000 for Sewage and Waterworks Projects"; "The Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board has received 12-Classroom Portable Complex, Valued at \$768,000"; "The Nepean Museum Board Receives \$16,000 for a Master Study"; "Daigeler Announces Residential Treatment Homes for Adults with Autism in Nepean."

I could go on, but I would like to—

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member continually refers to this guy Daigeler instead of by his riding. He himself brought up on a point of order earlier that that was inappropriate, and I would ask you to suggest that it is inappropriate now.

The Deputy Speaker: All members should take note of the rules.

Mr. Daigeler: Mr. Speaker, since you did not intervene after my point of order, I presumed you accepted the new practice and I am simply following what you have—

The Deputy Speaker: I did not accept the new practice. I reminded all members to respect the rules of the House.

Mr. Daigeler: Okay, Mr. Speaker, if this is the rule, then I hope you will remind all members of that. Thank you very much.

I would like to point out on the space agency, however, that the decision—

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, but now the member's time is up.

Mr. Daigeler: I will reserve that for the next time.

Mr. Harris: I would point out—and I did not want to make a further point of order; I wanted to allow the seven seconds for the member to carry on—but he alleged that you, Mr. Speaker, did not intervene, and I did distinctly hear you intervene, call the member to order and direct him to bear in mind, and I thought it was only appropriate that—

The Deputy Speaker: A point of order?

Mr. Harris: Well, if it is still a point of order, I am still on it. I would suggest that I thought it was appropriate since it was the member for—I wish I knew his riding so I would not have to call him Daigeler—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Nepean.

Mr. Harris: —Nepean who originally interrupted my colleague and brought that to your attention. Surely he ought to have been aware of that.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Well, if I might—

Mr. Harris: Actually, I am not on the point of order; I am in my two minutes. But when I have finished that, you can have a new point if you want.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. One member at a time.

Mr. Harris: I want to comment briefly on the statements the member for Carleton made concerning this polling information, because it was very disconcerting to me when it came to our attention that apparently a poll was commissioned—we do not know when it was commissioned, but delivered last January—commissioned, presumably, during the great free trade debate in this Legislature last Christmas, because the information was dated January and was not commissioned by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology; in fact, it was commissioned by the Premier's office, we presume by one Hershell Ezrin.

Second, that information was made available to the cabinet, was made available to the Liberal Party, and when we asked for it, finally, under freedom of information, all the political stuff was pulled out.

We want to know who paid for those polls, under what auspices and under what authority.

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, the member's time is up. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would just like to make the point that when the member for Nepean—

The Deputy Speaker: Is this a point of order?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Yes, I believe it is, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: The standing order?

Hon. Mr. Conway: It has to do with the standing order that says that a member ought to address another member by the electoral district, and that is the point that I want to address.

What the member for Nepean was doing was referring to press clippings. He was not referring to himself, he was reading press clippings; and I am sure my friend the member for Nipissing would want me to observe that.

We all recognize that the standing orders are quite clear that an honourable member ought to refer to another as the member for riding X, Y or

Z, but next week when I want to introduce the press clippings from the Perth Courier, for example, on the visit of the member for Nipissing to the delegate selection process out of Lanark-Renfrew last night, I am sure he would want me to be able to refer to the headlines of the Courier which report upon his visit.

1610

Mr. Harris: I give the member permission to quote precisely, not just "the member for Nipissing," but indeed with my name.

The Deputy Speaker: Before we go to the response of the member for Carleton, may I remind all members that it is the tradition in the standing orders to refer to other members in this House by their riding name and only by their riding name. Therefore, this is addressed to all members and I will expect all members to respect this standing order. Will the member for Carleton wish to respond for two minutes?

Mr. Sterling: I think I might. I want to say to the outburst from the honourable member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) that with regard to the school in Barr Haven he refers to, which I went to bat for and Bob Mitchell went to bat for—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You mean the former member for—

Mr. Villeneuve: They changed the riding name.

Mr. Harris: He's not a member any more.

Mr. Sterling: I do not care. When I represent a particular area I go to bat for it. Bob Mitchell did not care. I will tell the members what happened. We got the school in Barr Haven. The member for Renfrew North failed to mention the fact that we did get the school for Barr Haven. I will also say that the requirements of the Carleton Board of Education now are not treble what they were before, they are five times what they were before. They need five times the capital allocation they did back in the days when we were in government. So for this member to stand up and say "We tripled the capital allocation" means nothing, not in this area here, which is expanding rapidly. The population of Nepean at that time was approximately 75,000 people. It is now 100,000. It is growing rapidly, as are the other areas.

I say to the member for Ottawa-Rideau only that I know she feels very strongly. I know this is her first term in this Legislature and her first term in terms of dealing with lobby groups, pressure groups and people with different interests from back home. I ask her only this: does she think those groups are going to say to her—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: This indeed must be Thursday. I had intended to make a major speech, but since we are running out of time and I do understand that the House leader wants to move to other business, I will deal with just a couple of specific points, partially dealing with my riding, but also partially dealing with the province as a whole. I think one of the major thrusts I would like to develop today is my concern for the care of our senior citizens.

I received a letter today from the Victorian Order of Nurses. They highlight one of the very important concerns I have. They are writing to me asking for my "assistance in finding a solution to a critical financial problem facing our branch." The VON in Guelph-Wellington-Dufferin provides a home service for the seniors. The problem is that the Treasurer will not provide them with enough money. The Treasurer does have a problem finding enough money for all the requests that he receives, and I quite understand that.

The point I am trying to make is does he not feel that providing money to help to maintain our seniors in their own homes would be a savings? If we can encourage and support our seniors to stay in their own homes by providing the necessary funding and assistance that they need, would it not alleviate the very serious hospital problem that we have and the problem with the nursing home shortage of beds? I think that we are very shortsighted in not supporting the requests such as the Victorian Order of Nurses makes for this service. Also the Canadian Red Cross Society in a letter dated September 23 points out the very same concern.

1610

They state in their letter addressed to me and signed by Barbara Traham, director, home support services: "Currently a viable visiting homemakers' service will not only assist the elderly to live independently, but will also save the taxpayers millions of dollars in hospital long-term care."

Mr. Speaker, since you are the only one who is paying any attention, I would address it to you and encourage you to relay my message to the Treasurer.

Miss Nicholas: I'm paying attention.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am sorry. There are a couple of others. I would encourage the government, especially the Treasurer, to give consideration to doing the very thing that governments

have said they would for many, many years. That is that they want to support the seniors to be able to stay in their own homes. Yet we do not provide the funding or the assistance they need to do so. It is much less costly to help them stay in that environment than to have them forced to move into homes for the aged, into nursing homes or in many cases into the hospitals.

On that very point, I would like to just deal briefly with the very serious problem I have in my riding. It has to do with a nonprofit housing corporation, a senior citizens' home in the township of Erin, the village of Hillsburgh. It is a two-storey building. There is not any elevator in the building. The bottom floor is filled. The top floor, I think, is filled as well.

The problem is, when persons become disabled, if they break a hip and happen to live on the second floor, then they have no access to their building. They are forced to live away from home. In fact, in some cases, they are forced to move into nursing homes. Really, we are forcing them out of their homes.

We have an access fund that provides elevators for churches, legion halls and things of this nature, but have been advised by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini), the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) and the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) that there is no funding available to provide elevators for senior citizens' homes.

In the little village that I speak about, Hillsburgh, there are three people trapped in their apartments. One lady went into the hospital and was not able to return to her home for over a year. Another lady suffered a similar experience and was denied access to her home for some time. Erma Allen could not come home for several months after knee surgery. Claira Thompson broke her hip and could not live at home for a year. Both Erma and Claira are back living now at Meadowview Place, but they still have problems negotiating the steps. The social club lounge and laundry rooms are on the floor inaccessible to the above ladies.

By not providing the service of an elevator to this home at a cost of approximately \$100,000, we are forcing some of these people to make the decision to move into nursing homes. It will cost this government many more dollars. It completely refutes the statement that they are constantly making, that they want to keep seniors in their own homes if at all possible. I say to the Treasurer that I have asked for support on this for

over a year. I am going to continue until I get some help.

I think one of the problems we have is that there should be one minister responsible for all the services that go to our seniors. We have disabled seniors who seem to fall between two ministries. We have the Ministry of Community and Social Services which becomes involved in some of the services for homes for the aged and the Ministry of Health which becomes involved for the nursing homes. One minister should have the responsibility of dealing with all the problems relating to our seniors.

1620

I would like to move to one more topic. This is the second last and then I have just one brief one. This concerns the land use policies of this government.

I have 21 municipalities in my riding of Wellington. The township of Puslinch has a very heavy burden of gravel. Maybe it is a burden; maybe it is not a burden. But certainly they have a problem with it. They have many conflicting needs for their land use. They have requests from three major companies to extract their gravel, including the University of Guelph.

They are being forced into an Ontario Municipal Board hearing that will cost them many thousands of dollars, and the biggest single problem is the conflicting land use policies of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

The township requested meetings with these four ministers. One minister agreed to meet with them, two ministers said they did not think it would serve any purpose, and I will quote from the third minister's response. This is from the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). It is signed by the minister, and he states: "We maintain that policies should be incorporated in the plan to consider extraction below the water table subject to site-specific study. We are prepared to present our arguments on this matter before the Ontario Municipal Board if necessary."

The Minister of Agriculture and Food says, on one hand, to preserve agricultural land and he is rather supportive of the Puslinch problem. The Minister of Natural Resources, on the other hand, says the very opposite. Why does the township have to fight this battle in the OMB court? Why can it not be resolved in cabinet? Why can the ministries not make the determination as to what policies they are going to impose

upon the townships and not go through this charade that every time this question of land use or the opening of a new gravel quarry pit comes up, the municipality involved has to fight at the OMB level? It does not make sense. It is costing the municipalities money and it is extremely aggravating.

On the matter of land use and control, I will mention the problem we are having in obtaining affordable housing. The city of Toronto is certainly a prime example, but we have a similar problem in our small municipalities. One reason is the extremely stringent controls placed on land use.

In the township of Arthur, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food encouraged the township to build its small housing developments in an urban setting around a small hamlet and said that would be acceptable to it. An individual tried this process, a 32-unit housing development, and has been denied approval for the last two and a half years. Every time he requires another hearing, a lawyer, another study, the costs escalate and we are adding to the cost of housing, not decreasing it. It happens right across this province.

I might just mention that one of the problems we have in Toronto is housing, another is transportation or lack of same and another is the garbage crisis. These are three major problems because the city has grown too large and cannot control these very serious problems. If the government would give consideration to encouraging industry to locate in rural Ontario, it could provide many jobs and it could provide the necessary support services that municipalities in the east, the north and the west need and require.

We do not have to use up all the agricultural land by any means, but there is all kind of land that could be used for that purpose, and I am sure the member for Lincoln (Mr. Pelissero) would concur with that, as long as we do not use prime A1 or A2 land. He is nodding his head, either at you, Mr. Speaker, or me.

I would encourage the government to support the principle of encouraging industry to locate in rural Ontario rather than in a city that is so congested that it cannot take any more growth.

I happened to be down in Welland yesterday on a very important errand and, on the way back, I ran into two traffic jams that took one hour to get through because the roads were completely impassable.

Mr. Villeneuve: And it was 11 o'clock at night.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: At 11 o'clock at night, as my good friend the member for Stormont,

Dundas and Glengarry who was with me will vouch for.

I will move on to my last point as I am sure my House leader wants to make a few comments. That has to do with municipal councils. As I mentioned earlier, I have 21 municipal councils that I deal with and the vast majority of them are completely frustrated with this government's support for the problems that they encounter.

The Ministry of the Environment, in half a dozen cases in four or five municipalities that I represent, has practically demanded that municipalities build new sewage plants. He said they would have no more growth if they will not build plants. They agreed to this. The village of Arthur is one example. Then the municipalities met with years of red tape trying to get approvals through. The sites were not acceptable. There were only a few sites to begin with, but it was one problem after another.

It is great for the ministry to tell the municipalities there is something wrong, but surely, the responsibility is to help them to locate the best site possible and to help them to go through the process of red tape and bureaucratic delay.

The town of Fergus requested permission to extend a water line into their industrial basin. It was told it would be four months before the ministry could get around to looking at its application—not approving it, just looking at it. Four months just to look at an application is absolute insanity.

The mayor is running for another term and one of the reasons he is running is because of the frustration he has had with the government and to indicate to the electors his problem.

I will just quote one section from an article of October 6. It is Mayor Bill Beirnes of Fergus. "The Minister of the Environment has placed a moratorium on development in the town until that sewage plant is expanded, but it could be several years before the town has cleared the study process and waded through public hearings and an environmental assessment." That frustrates the mayor. He says, "The more I think about it, the more I realize there is just too much red tape."

I agree completely with the mayor and the other municipalities in my riding that have expressed the same concerns. I am sure, sir, that you must encounter some of these problems in our neighbouring county of Perth. Thank you very kindly.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am always glad to hear the honourable member contribute to these

debates, but he made one specific matter of major importance. It was an elevator in a senior citizens' apartment building.

I think he is correct that there is not a provision for that to be included in approved plans because I remember having the same discussion when one in our local village of St. George was approved under a previous administration. It is now built, called Russell Heights. I think I have a corner suite reserved for the year after next, but there was no elevator, and just like the honourable member, I was trying to persuade the government to assist in that. I was not successful. But there is an elevator in it and that is because the local Lions Club and a number of groups simply got together, paid for it and installed it, and it is working.

So, I recommend that course of action to the honourable member. It is a place where the community can come in with something that they feel especially necessary under their requirements. Perhaps the honourable member could lead that up and start it with maybe a \$5,000 donation.

Mr. Speaker: Any other members wishing to make any comments?

1630

Mr. Harris: I was not going to, but I am reminded in the member's comments of a project in Sturgeon Falls called Résidences Mutuelles. This is a project that has been promoted by the Royal Canadian Legion and a group of dedicated citizens of Sturgeon Falls. They came to me recently with a problem.

They have a number of elderly residents in this nonprofit housing development they have put forward. The individual who came to me for assistance was Bruno Vannier. Lo and behold, it was a similar problem. They have a second floor, the residents are becoming more and more elderly and they wanted to put in an elevator so these residents could stay in this facility. They found out and I found out, as the Treasurer did, in exhausting all the possibilities through provincial funding, that in none of the programs the province had could we find any way to wedge this project in to qualify.

While the Treasurer points out today that there are other avenues—i.e., charity and going after service clubs for it—perhaps my blending of the Sturgeon Falls project of Résidences Mutuelles into the mix along with the honourable member will prompt other members in this Legislature who, I am sure, will have similar problems, to come forward with those problems. Perhaps we can prick the curiosity of the Treasurer and of the

government to say: "Gosh, Don, there is a need for this. There is a need for this and perhaps we should be involved in a program of this type."

Mr. J. M. Johnson: To the Treasurer, I would like to comment on the charitable suggestion he made or at least the suggestion to having charity pick up the costs for the government. This is exactly what they are trying to do in the little village of Hillsburgh. There is a Lions Club. They are trying to raise money, but they are raising money just for a chair-lift. The chair-lift will suffice to bring the people up to the second floor, but it is not the same as being able to get into an elevator—if you are in a wheelchair, you can bring your parcels and everything—you still depend on extra help. They have not the resources in Hillsburgh to come up with \$100,000.

I did not want to mention it because it is not my nature, but I would like to make reference to a \$400,000 loan or grant or whatever that is going into Hamilton to restore an old building. Surely there would be more sense in putting four elevators in four senior citizens' homes that need it. Surely the government has more interest in preserving the lifestyle of our seniors than in preserving old buildings. Are buildings more important to the government than people? I am sure the member for Renfrew North will not agree with that.

I tell the minister it is not a costly item. All the homes are built, if they are two storeys or higher, with elevators. It was a mistake in the past to build any without them. We should recognize that we have a problem and try, over a period of time, to put elevators into the homes that need them and try to keep our people in those homes. The costs would be much less than having them stay, as in this one example, in the hospital for six or eight months. It just makes sense. Please respect it.

Mr. Harris: I do not want to be very long because I want to inform the House that I think it is important that we get on with supply.

I think it is important that general legislative grants to school boards are due November 2, \$40 million; November 3, \$39 million; November 4, \$48 million. The banks need to be notified of that by October 27, so let's get on with this. As well, due to the banks on October 26, to meet the November 1 deadline for mental health facilities, is \$22 million. General welfare for municipalities must be in the hands of the banks on October 27 to meet the deadline of November 2; that is for \$27 million. Nursing homes, to the banks—it has

to be there by October 28 to meet the payment date of November 3—\$38 million.

With supply now being debated at this late time in October, I think criticism is fair, and we should take some time for that, but I urge all members of the House, from all parties and all sides, to consider it appropriate that we pass this today.

Having said that, I want to ask the Treasurer a couple of questions first. Then, when I make my other remarks, he might be able to have the answers ready for me when he responds, well before six o'clock today, when it is his turn.

I would be interested in knowing the status of the employee share ownership plan, what is happening with it, how much money it looks like it is costing and where it is at. I would also be very interested, throughout this debate, in the cost and status and what is happening with the new home ownership plan. Both of these plans would be covered by the supply budget we are going to pass today. I mention those two specifically because it may take a few minutes for the Treasurer or the Minister of Revenue, who is here today, to come up with that information.

I am glad the member for Wellington is here. On this problem with elevators in senior citizens' homes, he is quite right. There were some built, with the best of intentions, by volunteer, nonprofit groups, where elevators were not supplied to the second floor. I know that the Résidences Mutuelles in Sturgeon Falls has applied for and received approval under the residential rehabilitation assistance program for 75 per cent of the cost. I think that program has to be repaid. It is not quite as lucrative as what we are asking the Treasurer for, but for those members who will be lobbying intensely for a new provincial program, it may be at least an interim route that they may wish to go.

In the process of my comments, I want to talk about a few of the ministries we are voting supply for today. I think it is very regrettable that we are into a pattern of bringing in a budget, announcing that budget and then ignoring debate on the budgetary bills that come with the budget until very late in the year in which we are spending the money.

That is not what has happened historically, in the past. Normally, even when treasurers, for whatever reasons, have had to bring in tax increases, treasurers of the past—certainly treasurers of my party when they were there—brought those bills forward in a timely and orderly fashion, shortly after the budget. Indeed, my recollection is that they tried to have them all

passed in the spring session so that it was close to the time the budget was brought in. Whether there was good news or bad news, I think the treasurers owned up to that responsibility.

That is something this Treasurer has not done. This is not the first time—I believe it is the second time—he has held back debate on the bills that actually increase the taxes. I find it very ironic. We are in the middle of a federal election. Were we not in the middle of this federal election, I think all objective observers would conclude that the first item of business this fall would have been to deal with those tax bills.

Given the fact that the tax bills lead to an increase in taxation of some \$1.3 billion annualized, given the fact that they are a constant reminder to the people of this province of double-digit spending, which is the requirement for these tax bills that were brought in by the budget, and given the fact that would remind people that the former Liberal federal government was spending at double the rate of inflation to get us into the mess, I can understand politically why the Treasurer is embarrassed and wants to avoid discussion of those tax bills while the federal election is on.

None the less, this is a provincial Legislature and I believe the Treasurer is ducking his responsibility to the people of Ontario.

1640

Second, I want to talk about a few ministries. I want to talk a little bit about the Ministry of Natural Resources. I mention the Ministry of Natural Resources because many of those who are concerned with areas of jurisdiction that fall under that ministry are becoming concerned, indeed alarmed, at what is going on in that ministry.

I want to talk, first, about the fishing licence program that was brought in. Commitments were made by the Treasurer and by the Minister of Natural Resources: "When we bring in this program, the funds will be spent on top of what would normally be spent under fisheries budgets in fisheries projects." That was the commitment made to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, which indeed lobbied on behalf of the program.

They lobbied for a separate program, a trust fund, if you like, so it could be identified and so there could be no fudging of the books or fudging of what exactly has happened. They said, "If you put it into a separate fund, then we can track that money and can be guaranteed that you cannot play games with it." That did not occur, and the federation of anglers and hunters reluctantly

supported the second-best option, which was to proceed with a resident angling licence of \$10, as I recall, on the understanding—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Did you buy one?

Mr. Harris: —I have one in my pocket—and assurances from the Treasurer and the minister that indeed those funds would in no way affect the regular funding.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All the funding went to fisheries.

Mr. Harris: All the money from that licence did go to fishing, but what happened was exactly as we predicted when we debated this issue, what happened was exactly what the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters feared. Indeed, now they are condemning the government because the regular fisheries budget appears to be not keeping pace with inflation; it in fact appears to be flat-lined. The government can stand up and say more money is going into fisheries. It is, because of the fishing licence.

But what has happened is that when it goes into the general revenue fund, the expectation was that the money would carry on, inflation-indexed, so the government could do the same amount of work year after year, according to some index. In other ministry programs, on average, as we know, spending is up double the rate of inflation, but the fisheries program appears flat-lined. Clearly, what we now have is an additional tax of \$10 with no additional money appearing to be going into fishing. That is a betrayal of trust and I think the Treasurer should be embarrassed by that.

It may indeed be that he intended to keep his word and intended for these things to happen and the Premier overrode him and said, "No, you're not going to be able to do that." I know that can happen, although now that Hershell Ezrin is gone, I do not know who it is who gives the orders. Maybe now it is the Premier himself. I wanted to get that on the record.

Second is forest management. Every objective observer of the forest industry would say that significantly more money must be going into forest management. When the previous government unceremoniously left office, there was a history of substantial increases going in. Members can debate if they like that it was for the neglect of the past, as some will say, but I do not think it helps to go back in history save and except to say, "What was the pattern when these rogues took office?"

The pattern at that time was for significant increases going into forest management. There in fact were increases more than double the rate of

inflation. It was going up in leaps and bounds. There was a recognition that we had fallen behind, there was a recognition that indeed we had ground to make up in the forest management of this province. It started with the tremendous acceleration of the number of seedlings being grown through the private nursery program introduced by my colleague the member for Cochrane South. Then it began with the massive planting programs of these seedlings, and it was accelerated with the signing of forest management agreements.

If the members of all parties would care to recall, the former Minister of Natural Resources, the member for Nipissing, in the 1985 campaign, immediately announced that when he took office his priorities were to continue that growth in the tree-planting portion of the ministry and indeed announced significantly more funds for what now would have to follow. As more and more seedlings were planted, more and more money then would have to follow a few years later in what we call tending or managing those seedlings.

Clearly, the forest industry had an expectation, and clearly the record of the three or four years before the demise of the previous government was that indeed forest management was a priority.

What happened when this government took office? What happened can be epitomized by some of the things that were said this year. In fact, was more money put into tending? No, it was not. The government has fallen three years behind that. Was more money put into planting? No, it was not. In fact, for the first time, we had private growers this year with surplus seedlings. We had companies crying for funding and assistance from the government through its program to make sure those seedlings were planted. And what happened? The seedlings were turfed in the garbage. They were not even planted.

The only responsible management reason I can think of is, "The Treasurer will not give me enough money to manage and tend these seedlings after they are planted, so I will not waste the money planting them." I accept that argument. I doubt that it is one that will be put forth, but it may likely be the only logical argument.

All three parties have supported forest management agreements as being a step forward. The New Democratic Party, I think, has questioned whether the government should be involved in it, as it is. The companies should pay more; I accept

that argument from their philosophic base. None the less, they want more forest management done. They want a better inventory of the trees, which forest management agreements force companies and the government to do. They want more land prepared for regeneration. They want more seedlings planted. They want more tending of those seedlings, as does this party and this member.

The forest industry and indeed environmentalists are shocked that while, on average, we are seeing double the increase of inflation in spending, we are seeing what appears to be a flat line of spending in that area.

I want to mention conservation authorities. Right now, the Minister of Natural Resources has a major review out over the mandate of conservation authorities. The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority has indicated that if this mandate goes through, it will be the end of its authority, as we know it. It will be substantially reduced in dollars. It will be substantially reduced in mandate. As we know it, it will be the end of the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Why?

Mr. Harris: Why? Does the Treasurer want me to take all day to go into all the reasons?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You are.

Mr. Harris: The Treasurer did not listen. He was yickety-yacking. I said there are two main reasons. First, under the new funding formula being proposed, the funding would be substantially less to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority. Second, the mandate would be less and, as we know it, it would disappear.

I want to mention the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Natural Resources comes into this through the conservation authorities. I want to talk about something specifically in my riding and I am sure it applies around the province. That has to do with a lake called Trout Lake.

Trout Lake is a class 1 lake. That means the water is deemed to be of the highest quality. It is the lake from which all of the water supply for the city of North Bay is drawn. It is also a lake which is heavily populated. It is a lake that is heavily used both recreationally and by full-time residents.

1650

The Ministry of the Environment has refused to come up with its share of the funding to ensure the water quality of Trout Lake in North Bay. Second, the Ministry of the Environment says,

"Well, we commissioned this study," which many people dispute, "which says the lake is okay and we don't see any future problems."

Fortunately, the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority said: "We're not sure this study has been as extensive as it should have been. We're not sure that everything was looked at as it should have been. We think it was a little too cursory and didn't get to the bottom, if you like, of everything that is going on in the Trout Lake basin."

They commissioned their own study. Maybe that is why the government wants to cut their funding back, because they are embarrassing the Minister of the Environment in its own field. They commissioned their own independent study, a more exhaustive study, I would suggest perhaps a more independent study, and this study says: "Yes, there is a problem and it has to do with environment. It has to do with septic systems on that lake. It has to do with the lack of enforcement by the Ministry of the Environment. It has to do with the lack of controls. It has to do with a lack of follow-up."

I mention it in the same context as I follow along with the potential cutbacks of funding. I hope that is not the reason they are being cut back, but I applaud the conservation authority for its efforts on behalf of Trout Lake water quality and I condemn the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for not being more vigilant, for not being more forceful, for not putting more resources into identifying the problems and particularly for not being part of the solution instead of apparently being part of the problem.

I want to comment briefly on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, just in one aspect. I recall when I was first elected in 1981—and there were not many lots being developed in 1981, if members will recall the economic situation of this province in 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Tory times are hard times.

Mr. Harris: They were difficult times. They were brought on by Pierre Trudeau and the Liberals in Ottawa. Liberal times are tough times. They were tough times all across this country, and indeed Ontario, in spite of the excellent government it had, was no exception. They were difficult times.

In the areas of federal responsibility, interest rates were over 20 per cent. In the other area of federal responsibility, inflation was running in double digits. The federal government was spending at twice the rate of inflation. Those early 1980s were tough Liberal times across this

country, and indeed, Ontario had its share of problems.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You and Bill Davis ran us right into the ground.

Mr. Harris: Thank goodness we had the management in place at that particular time to enable us to survive, to enable us to be ready for a better day; but that indeed is another question, and I have strayed from my original train of thought. Perhaps the Treasurer can bring me back to it: agriculture.

There were not many subdivisions being approved. Nobody could afford to go out and develop land at that interest rate, and the housing market was much softer, as members will recall. Mortgage rates were 18 or 19 per cent. But there was the odd lot being developed, and I heard time and time again from members of the Liberal Party and in the media, from environmentalists and from those interested in the preservation of farm land, what a shame it was when this half acre of class 1 farm land was being put into housing or into industrial, taken out of agricultural production.

I want to tell members something: It had an impact on me. I said, "You know, that is something we really ought to be very concerned about." It certainly was not significant in those days, but, by golly, we ought to be concerned about our agricultural land.

Has anybody today driven north of Toronto and seen what is happening to our agricultural land? I really do not want to get into some of the discussions we have been having the last couple of days in question period, but that has been the focus of what is the burgeoning paving over of agricultural lands. Now, it is not a lot here and there; now it is 100 acres here and there, 1,000 acres here and there, and thousands of acres here and there. Where are the Liberal critics who were so concerned about the odd half acre? I do not understand that.

I do not understand the Minister of Agriculture and Food, whom I heard get up in his place in this House many times bemoaning the loss of agricultural land to housing and industrial concerns. I mention that. I would appreciate perhaps a statement from the Minister of Agriculture and Food at some time as to what he feels about that.

Certainly if we can ever get to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food estimates—in fact, I guess this may be the last day that I can say I still do not think we have done one single minute of estimates in this chamber. It is unfortunate and

something that I hope is delved into when we get to the Agriculture estimates.

I want to read a few quotes.

Mr. Furlong: Who wrote them?

Mr. Harris: I will give the members the authors.

What we are dealing with here is the Liberal financial record. We are dealing with the estimates of supply. We are dealing with voting supply to pay the bills that this Treasurer and this free-spending Premier want to foist on the public of Ontario.

A Globe and Mail editorial on April 5, 1988, said: "Ontario's economy is more stable than most, but an economic boom should not sow the seeds of a fiscal crisis in tougher times." That is what it thinks the budgetary policy is doing.

Dominion Bond Rating Service, rating alert, Globe and Mail, April 5, 1988: "The present provincial government has introduced three straight budgets of high expenditure growth... It has the benefit of top-of-the-cycle conditions, which has helped control its deficits, but it has never had to govern through a recession or economic slowdown'.... 'If the province must raise taxes at present to contain its deficit, with the economy booming, what will it do when the economy slows and revenue growth drops, raise taxes further?'"

The Sault Ste. Marie Star, March 22, 1988: "With Ontario currently riding a wave of prosperity, now is the time to tackle the deficit, removing this burdensome drain on public money. But the Liberals have chosen not to do this. Refusing to restrain spending until this is accomplished points to a lack of good fiscal sense and it is this inadequacy on the part of the Liberals, and not Ottawa's tax reform, that is in large measure to blame for any increase by Ontario of its taxes."

The old, independent Sault Ste. Marie Star—that was the editorial there. The Premier likes to quote Sault Ste. Marie when we are dealing with the Sunday shopping bill.

"Shame on Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon. Short memories are often the best ally of politicians, but surely the Treasurer knew his musings over the possibility of raising the provincial sales tax eventually would leave a few people scratching their heads in disbelief.... Nixon and the Ontario Liberals once had a more cryptic view of any increase in the sales tax. In fact, the last time the sales tax was raised to seven from five per cent in 1973, the Liberals railed at the regressive nature of the tax because it would unfairly hit the poor harder than those with high

incomes. Nixon, who happened to be leader of the opposition Liberals at the time, challenged the Conservative government to put its sales tax increase before the electorate because it was such an extremely serious matter. 'We should go to the people to decide in fact whether they are satisfied with the care, or lack of care, that has been lavished on their financial affairs,' said Nixon."

That was the editorial of March 14, 1988, in the Windsor Star.

1700

I notice the Windsor Star did not say that we should go to the people over this current budget. I am not sure we should, either. I think we might have to see one or two more before the people are quite ready.

This is the Financial Post editorial of March 26, 1988: "In the middle of an economic boom, flattered by a sycophantic local media and infatuated public opinion, the Premier oversees perhaps the smuggest government in the land. Not only is it blind to any need of saving for rainier days to come, it is cheerfully punching holes in the roof via a massive spend-and-fiddle assault on the province's economy. For now, growth is strong enough to absorb this abuse, but disaster is in the offing when the boom fades."

Here is the Toronto Sun; this is April 5, 1988: "Why the incredible turnaround in Tory fortunes in London North? Easy. Voters were disgusted because a by-election was unnecessary. They are noisily unhappy with the way extension of aid to separate schools is perceived"—I was not going to read all that—"and they are uneasy with uncontrolled Liberal spending." That is the part I want. "Treasurer Bob Nixon hints his budget later this month will sock it to us. If he soaks us in the name of overspending, it will be a far greater boost to Tory fortunes than any by-election. We hope so."

The Hamilton Spectator, March 5, 1988: "It took Ontario Tories 40 years to get as lazy as David Peterson's Liberals are today." I would say 42 years. "Sluggish, unresponsive, the Liberals behave as though the whopping majority they won last September stunned them. Solid, sensible Bob Nixon, a man who knows the value of a dollar and a gifted politician"—why am I reading all this?—"obviously has the stuff to be one of the outstanding treasurers of Ontario history."

I am reminded of the story of the speechwriter who quit and then gave his last speech to the politician, who got up there and read it. Of course, he had not read it before he gave the

speech and he came to the point where at the bottom of the page it said, "And now I will outline 20 elaborate tax proposal schemes to save this country." He turned the page and it said, "Now you're on your own, big shot."

I do not know why I read all that, but I want to be fair and read the whole schmeer that is here: "...obviously has the stuff to be one of the outstanding treasurers of Ontario history, but at the peak of a booming economy sizzle, Mr. Nixon hasn't been able to bring the deficit much below \$1 billion a year, and now the Premier is talking about even higher taxes."

Orland French, the Globe and Mail, March 7, 1988: "Premier Peterson is fiscally prudent. The reduction of class sizes he promised during the election is so expensive, he isn't going to do it all at once. A lot of other promises are expensive too, and Mr. Peterson realizes the value of a dollar. Since it isn't worth as much as it used to be, he says he will raise taxes. Raising taxes with a smile on his face will always make him popular."

The St. Catharines Standard, March 4: "Increasing the sales tax may seem a simple way out for the government, but it could have serious repercussions. The government would be well advised to seek other means of matching revenues to demands or curbing its spending appetite."

North Bay Nugget, February 20, 1988: "Ontario is the richest of all provinces and enjoying a boom. If it can't balance its books in good times, what will happen in the bad? Mr. Nixon is not offering any effective alternative to the feds' slow attempts at deficit reduction. He certainly doesn't offer much hope for a debt-free Ontario, with or without federal assistance."

The Peterborough Examiner: "Those good times may nudge the Treasurer into spending even more to make things right, but sooner or later, some government is going to have to stand back, get the big picture and start settling a few bills." Better sooner.

I do not want to read them all, but I want to mention which papers they are, because I do not want any of these papers to feel they were slighted by the member for Nipissing.

I will simply say: the Toronto Star, similar types of comments; the London Free Press, similar comments, editorial of March 2; Peter Cook, Globe and Mail, March 4, similar comments; Eric Dowd, Kitchener-Waterloo Record, June 5, 1987; Peter Cook again, August 5, 1988, in the Globe and Mail; Rosemary Speirs, the Toronto Star, again on October 14, 1987; and

Lonnie Goldstein, November 6, 1987, the Toronto Sun.

I say to those papers, those reporters and those editorial boards that I will give their complete quotes when we get to the tax bills, but I wanted to mention them and get them on the record now. From all across this province they are sending the same warning signals to this government, to this Treasurer. They cannot spend at double the rate of inflation for the fourth year in a row without its catching up to them—massive increases in spending by this government.

We saw what happened when Trudeau did it in Ottawa. We saw the disaster it brought on this country. It was coupled with significant increases in the civil service. It was coupled with massive increases in the budgets, particularly the administrative budgets. History is there. We saw what happened. Surely they are not so crass as to say: "Well, Trudeau stayed in power 13 or 14 years. It takes the people that long before they realize how stupid we were." Surely the Treasurer does not want power that badly, to bankrupt this province as we saw Trudeau bankrupt this country.

There is an 80 per cent increase in the main office costs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food since this government has taken office; the Ministry of the Attorney General, 50 per cent; 191 per cent, Ministry of Government Services; 144 per cent, Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs. In native affairs—that free-spending socialist, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott); is he also the minister responsible for native affairs?—there is a 470 per cent increase in the main office budget.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: They did not have one before 1985.

Mr. Harris: No, that is from 1985-86 to 1988-89. I expect that from the Attorney General, because he is a free spender. I just do not know how it got through the Treasurer.

Those figures, I believe, have been put on the record before, and we see it happening here. I sound the alert to all members of this House. I sound the alert that we ought to heed the financial reporters from all across this province and, indeed, Rosemary Speirs, whom not everybody would consider a financial reporter but who has considerable expertise, obviously, in financial areas as well. I ask the minister to heed the warnings of what is happening.

I indicate that we will have much more to say when the Treasurer finally has enough nerve—I guess it will be November 22—finally to bring forward the tax bills so we can get on with

approving those, with the estimates, of which we have not done an hour, get the budget passed and get the estimates approval through. Then we will not have to keep having interim supply.

I close by once again indicating that we do not want to hold up grants to school boards, mental health facilities, general welfare to municipalities and nursing homes. I indicate that we will support the supply being voted and I want it clear that that in no way indicates one iota of support for the budgetary policy of this government.

1710

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the comments made by a number of honourable members, I believe all in the opposition parties. I have made notes of a number of comments made and made a few short comments at the end of two or three of the speeches. I appreciate also the fact that the member for York East (Ms. Hart), my parliamentary assistant, was here for the times that I could not be in attendance.

It is probably a suitable time for me, on behalf of all members present, to welcome Christine into the Treasury. I know we will work very effectively and closely together during the months that lie ahead. The honourable members will know that—

Mr. Speaker: The member for York East?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: York East, right. The member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli), who has had the responsibility as parliamentary assistant for the last year, has assisted me in the Legislature on a number of occasions such as this and in the carriage of legislation. I do appreciate both these people and the service they are rendering for the greater good of the taxpayers of the province.

I was interested in the reference by the budget critic of the Conservative Party to change in the pattern of the presentation of the budget, the estimates and interim supply. It is not many years ago when the Progressive Conservative government of the day, at the presentation of the budget, would at the same time bring in a motion that permitted interim supply for the whole year. I can assure members that under those circumstances there was not any kind of lengthy debate, because we in the opposition realized that the important thing was to get at the discussion of the estimates, where I believe the honourable members on all sides, as individuals, have an opportunity to review the spending program of the government of the day in detail. It is also a good chance for members to bring forward specific needs in their own constituencies or areas of the province to the attention of the respective ministers who are

there defending the allocation that is made to them by the Treasurer of the day.

I think one of the things that is regrettable about the pattern of dealing with the financial business of the province is the recent custom of opposition parties to delay and impede, distort and inhibit. Perhaps "distort" is not a word you prefer to hear, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to use that if you find it offensive.

In the last two years as Treasurer, I have had great difficulty in being permitted to present the budget to the House in the first instance. You will know, Mr. Speaker, that this year the official opposition simply refused to allow the budget to be presented and I had to resort simply to tabling it so that there really was not a reading of the budget to the honourable members, as has been a long-standing custom in British parliamentary practice. I regret that; but now that we have done it once, the precedent is not one I find terribly offensive, and some honourable members have told me they thought it was probably one of my best presentations.

But the custom of allowing the budget debate to continue for most of the sessional year is not a bad one, because in fact, although it indicates the spending plan of the government, its approval is not necessary to permit the discussion of the estimates to go forward; and as long as the House permits interim supply, as I am glad to note the honourable members in all parties have said they will permit today, then the review of the estimates can continue.

Frankly, the system has not worked badly in the past, and without being too provocative, as long as the honourable members on all sides realize that the democratic process works only if the government of the day has the opportunity to put forward its legislative program, its taxation program and its spending program, that it is only if the government has an opportunity to have it brought forward, debated and voted upon, under those circumstances, then, the business of the province can be carried out in an orderly and democratic way.

In my view, if the business is seriously held up to the point where no honourable members, let alone the government itself, can bring forward bills for debate and disposition, then I think that the very foundation of democracy begins to crack and fall away and honourable members, particularly on the government side, look at their alternatives, because the business must be tended to, the taxes must be raised and the bills must be paid.

I want to refer to two or three specific questions that have come from the member for Nipissing. I am pleased to tell the honourable member that as far as the employee share ownership plan is concerned, which was announced two budgets ago and was introduced and passed at the recent session, there are 10 programs under review. Three are approved, involving 343 workers. I do not find that a devastating report of success, but it does mean that the efforts of the Ministry of Revenue, which will be reported on in more detail in the next few minutes, I trust, have been to make this known among the working people and businesses of the province. We think it is a good program and one that should be given very careful consideration.

At the same time, the Ontario home ownership savings plan, which was announced in the most recent budget and which went into effect only on September 1 1988, not quite two months ago, has already registered 1,435 plans. The Minister of Revenue and I are both very pleased about that and he will have an opportunity to report on that in more detail in his estimates, which we hope will be discussed in the House immediately.

The honourable member also spoke about the fishing licences. He would be interested to know that \$9.2 million was raised in the \$10 fishing licences that both he and I purchase, plus, I believe—was it the \$4, five-day licences? Yes. It turned out that is what I should have bought, but I, like the honourable member, got a \$10 licence.

All of this money was spent in fisheries, and as a result of that and the major support of the program, the fisheries program increased by nine per cent this year over the expenditures last year. The honourable member may feel that is inadequate. I think the commitment has been fulfilled and the fishing prospects for anglers continue to expand dramatically, although I cannot report to you, Mr. Speaker, that I caught a single blooming fish on my \$10 licence.

He also has been quite critical of the fact that the expenditures in the resource products program of the Ministry of Natural Resources are winding down and that we are not having an opportunity to grow and nurture as many seedlings as was the case during the brief few days when he had the responsibility as minister.

In fact, there are a number of things associated with this. One of the most interesting ones, I think, is that the infestation by spruce budworms but also gypsy moths is cyclical. The honourable member may recall that in recent years we have had to spend millions of dollars in spraying to control these forest pests.

The expense of this has been amplified by the fact that the government, at the urging of the opposition parties, particularly the former minister, decided not to use the normal control poisons and in fact sprayed the forests with a kind of sugar and water mixture that was supposed to kill the bugs by kindness, something like that, but it was extremely expensive, and however successful it was, the good Lord has changed the cycle, as He always does, and those insects are passing away. So the application of money for the control of those insects was, thank God—and that is exactly where the thanks should go—reduced this year.

That accounts for a very slight reduction in the actual expenditure, because the numbers of trees planted and nurtured have, if anything, increased, and the people in the ministry are very proud of the fact that they are able to do—and this is a good political explanation—more with less. Perhaps that will last me at least until the end of this debate.

I have a number of points here, because I was struck by one of the words used by the member for Nipissing in talking about the fishing licences, and even though I have been able to show you, Mr. Speaker, with the actual statistics that all of the money and more went into the support of the anglers' opportunities, still the expectations are raised and increasing.

This whole concept of expectations is what must concern us in the Legislature as people require more and more service, very properly so, and it is up to us to provide it as best we can and also see that it is adequately paid for.

1720

I was quite struck by the fact that the honourable member is concerned about pollution in Trout Lake, because I would say the honourable member would know a good deal about that. The first time I ever went to Trout Lake, there was, I believe, only one cottage on it.

Mr. Harris: Mine.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No.

Mr. Harris: Before mine.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That was before the member was a twinkle in his father's eye.

There was one cottage. I remember swimming in Trout Lake and there was nobody out there. In the last few years, of course, it has been heavily populated by some of the well-to-do residents of that booming part of the northern economy. North Bay probably has a higher proportion of judges and successful lawyers, well-to-do MPPs and other people who are successful in the

community than most communities in the province. They have all bought lots around Trout Lake and erected some of the very finest homes—not summer homes; I would say mansions. If it were not for them, our revenues in the land transfer tax would have been sagging this year, but such is not the case.

So, all of this pollution tends to come from people like the honourable member and his buddies who have located around the lake. Now they expect us to send all the money that is needed to maintain it in its pristine glory.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who, as the honourable members would recognize, is the best Minister of the Environment that Ontario has ever had and who is presently the best in all of Canada, perhaps North America, is doing an excellent job in this connection.

The honourable member has been worrying about the fact that the tax bills have not been coming forward for debate. I know the honourable member, working closely with my good friend and colleague to my left, the government House leader, is earnestly working for the allocation of time so that we can do the government business and approve these tax bills—let's say review them, and the House, I hope, will approve them—before the end of the calendar year.

If that does not happen, we will have to look and see what the precedents are, because there are many federal precedents where taxes have been levied and not supported by legislation while the House prorogued or went on to another session or even an election intervened. We hope that sort of thing could not possibly happen here and we do not intend it to happen, but there are precedents we find, when we look to Ottawa, for almost every sort of activity one could think of.

The honourable member referred to the sales tax and quoted extensively from newspapers about taxes in general. When it comes to spending programs out of control and the imposition of new taxes, the honourable member might very well hope that the discussion takes place well before the government at the federal level, which he supports, might, God forbid, be re-elected, because its spending program is unbelievably rich.

I just cannot believe that Michael Wilson would ever even want to be associated with the spending program which I am reliably informed by the metropolitan press is now approaching something between \$12 billion and \$15 billion. This does not even include the promise made by

the Minister of National Defence and backed up by his colleagues to purchase nuclear submarines at an additional cost of \$15 billion.

While this government is doing its best to promote the resources of our forests and to assist the good burghers of North Bay to keep Trout Lake clean so that the MPP can swim without his hair going grey, while we are building roads and hospitals in almost every community, except North Bay for the present time, his friends in Ottawa are planning to buy nuclear submarines.

Mr. Cureatz: They want to sink all these backbenchers.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: What they have in mind is they want to be able to count the whales around Baffin Island, something like that.

To tell members the truth, the other side of the thing that must worry the budget critic for the Progressive Conservatives is that his cousins in Ottawa, who may, God forbid, form the government after the election—

Mr. Harris: He is the critic.

Hon. R. F. Nixon:—well, spokesperson—are planning huge tax increases. I would say that Michael Wilson has in no way misled the people in this. He has said that phase 2, after the election, will involve substantial renovation of the present federal sales tax.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: With the agreement of the provincial government.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: There is no agreement whatsoever. I can assure the member that we are not participating. We are seeing what they have to offer. What they have to offer is the removal of the present 12 per cent tax, which returns \$14 billion in revenue to the federal coffers, plus another \$3 billion in gasoline tax and tobacco tax—do not forget that—in which the feds did not even involve themselves until Michael Wilson needed some additional revenue. They want to replace that by some sort of business transfer tax between eight per cent and 10 per cent.

Let's say it is nine per cent, just for fairness' sake; it is not the highest, it is not the lowest. They intend to tax everything except groceries, pharmaceuticals, wooden legs and things like that. It is estimated by, I believe none other than Don Blenkarn—and everybody pays a lot of attention to him—that the revenue from such a tax would not be neutral. In fact, it would be as much as \$28 billion. If anything, Don Blenkarn was a little conservative in his rather liberal estimate.

The Minister of Finance for Canada has never denied that those revenues would be very large indeed. This does not involve the province in any

way. If it does, we will have another set of numbers which, I am sure, if that were to occur, we will be discussing here. I would just think that the honourable member who has the temerity, as he launches his leadership campaign, to stand—

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Actually, when you look at the range of alternatives, you can see why the members of this caucus are looking outside the caucus. That is actually unkind. What I really intended to say is that I want to know where I can send my contribution for the Mike Harris Now leadership campaign. He is going to write it down and send it over.

It is true that the honourable member, in making his remarks, said something I fully agreed with. Back in the early 1980s, the times in this province were tough. I interjected that Tory times were hard times. There is a ring of truth to that up in our area when they remember the Depression days and the difficulties that were experienced over those years.

It may be an oversimplification to say that Tory times are hard times, although I like it, but think of this: There has never been a time when there have been more politicians claiming more credit for more economic buoyancy than now. Brian Mulroney, in his new persona, which has been established by our good friend Senator Norman Atkins, in which he sounds so much like Bill Davis it makes my skin crawl, is in a very moderate way saying he is responsible for the development of the economy of Canada, even though it is largely centred in this jurisdiction.

Mrs. Thatcher, at the same time, is pointing out to the politicians in the United Kingdom the buoyant economy there. When you look at her budget, they practically have no debt at all. The people downtown, for example, and other Conservatives, are so impressed with this that they overlooked the line that she is selling the family silver, year by year, turning all the crown assets into cash, taking them into her budget as if it were revenue and saying, "Look at my accomplishments." That does not mean the economy of the United Kingdom is growing tremendously, and she is taking credit for it.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor of West Germany, points with pride to the strength and growth of that great nation. Ronald Reagan, whom we all love, has indicated that with his great leadership in the economy of the United States, they have never had greater job growth.

If you really want to know where the economic leadership is that has sparked this, you do not have to go any further than this very chamber

because the confidence that the business community has in the initiatives taken by this government, the fact that we have been able in moderate tax changes to pay for social programs long needed and that we have made up for the starvation of our post-secondary system, our roads, our hospitals and so many of these services under the previous administration, and have been able to do so in an atmosphere of fiscal responsibility, has really amazed anybody who has taken the chance to examine it in an objective way.

1730

The honourable member who was decrying the inadequate leadership from this side just a moment ago is aware that as recently as, I guess, four or five months ago, Standard and Poor's in New York, completely independent and often looking at Ontario with a jaundiced eye in the dying months of the previous administration, was quick to enthusiastically reinstate our triple A credit rating, the best that there is. I am very proud of the fact that we have been able to do this and, at the same time, expand our programs in what I consider to be a responsible way.

Far from spending too much, as the honourable member would say, he need only look at the statistics to see that on a per capita basis, our programs are financed at a level where at least six other provinces, almost every one of them headed by a Progressive Conservative government, have a much higher per capita expenditure. Whether it is health, whether it is policing or whether it is a wide variety of services, our services are presented in an effective and orderly way.

I want to thank the honourable members for their indication that while they are critical, they are simply supporting the government in this. As the computers start spinning the discs and the tapes which will spend \$5 billion over the next two months, I will give all the credit that is due to the honourable members of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Mr. Nixon moved the motion for interim supply for the period commencing November 1, 1988 and ending December 31, 1988.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

VISITOR

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, before I call the next order, which will be the 56th order, I am sure my colleagues would want me to welcome on our collective behalf our good friend and

former colleague, the former member for Brantford, Phil Gillies, who appears, by the way, to be prospering as he engages in business beyond this assembly.

I want to call the 56th order.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF REVENUE CREDITS MINISTÈRE DU REVENU

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I would like to suggest before we start these estimates and this vote that we agree on a time allocation among the parties because there are only five hours allowed for these estimates and we have not really dealt with them for more than a year. I think since that time is very precious, we should limit ourselves to, say, 30 minutes for each of the party leadoffs and the minister's leadoff and that, from then on, the opposition parties get equal time for questioning because it is their opportunity to ask the minister questions; and that we also be able to deal with all items together when we get to the general questioning because we are not going to have time to go through it vote by vote; and that we deal with all the votes at the end, we vote yes or no on all of the votes. If that is acceptable to the other parties, I would like to recommend that.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, just to indicate that, certainly a time-sharing agreement is entirely satisfactory from our point of view. We would certainly recognize that, as the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) points out, this is an opportunity for the opposition, especially, to hear from the minister and for the minister to put the departmental case.

I would hope, in whatever might be arranged—we do not have to settle it right now—that some opportunity be provided for a great number of the private members who belong to the government in the case that they might wish to raise a question.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I thought these were opposition days.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just make the point that we can consider that.

Mr. Harris: Certainly we would concur: Not more than 30 minutes. I noticed the minister nodded his head. I think that part is very acceptable to our party. I would also concur with the government House leader that we would generally try to give you, Mr. Chairman, direction that we would like to divide the time that way, without getting into any specifics of

detail at this time. If we appear to be getting out of whack, we will call that to your attention and count on your good judgement.

I also would like to say at this time that this is an historic event. This is October 27, the latest day in the history of the parliament of Ontario, indeed probably of any parliament anywhere in the world, given the normal calendar year for that parliament, that one has started to provide time by the government to examine the estimates of the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Chairman: In front of me I have this request from Ms. Bryden on two points. Do I have some more comments on these two points?

Is that the consensus of the committee, then, that we shall proceed in this fashion? We shall take the votes at the end, so we shall discuss all globally, 30-minute leadoff times and then the rest of the time is divided equally between all three parties? Is that correct? Did I hear you right?

Ms. Bryden: I would just ask for some restraint by the backbenchers of all parties, in order to ensure that the opposition does have an opportunity to question the minister on government policies. The members of the Liberal Party do have their own caucus to question the minister in, and therefore I think we have to have some, not necessarily equal, time between the three parties.

Mr. Chairman: Agreed?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, fair enough. Does the minister wish to lead off and come to the front?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, could I move to a closer desk?

Mr. Chairman: Please go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Also, could I invite two of my people to sit at the front desk?

Mr. Chairman: Please come forward.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I will try to be very brief. I will try to respect the 30-minute limit, but I did have a lot of good things to tell you. We will start, anyway.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Self-editing, I find, is a great virtue.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Yes, exactly.

Ms. Bryden: Could I have a copy of his prepared speech?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: The members were supposed to be given copies.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: No copies? How come?

Ms. Bryden: It has been done in the past.

Hon. Mr. Conway: We will get copies to them.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I am going, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Get going.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I am pleased to present the 1988-89 estimates of the Ministry of Revenue for consideration by this committee. In the limited time available to me, I shall confine my opening remarks to the main features of the estimates. I would like to note, however, that I have provided the members with comprehensive briefing material which fully explains the estimates in detail on a vote-by-vote basis.

I shall begin by summarizing the changes in the expenditure and staffing levels shown in the printed estimates for the ministry as a whole. First, I wish to draw the members' attention to the summary of human resources, which is the second table in the briefing material entitled "1988/89 Estimates Compared to 1987/88 Estimates." This table describes total ministry employment in terms of planned or maximum staff in 1988-89. As the table indicates, staffing is projected to increase by 252 person-years over 1987-88 levels. It should be noted, however, that most of this staff increase is for a onetime allocation for temporary enumerators, equivalent to 240 person-years. It is also the case that planned staffing levels will not be achieved in practice due to in-year cutbacks and vacancies. In fact, the Treasurer's government-wide constraint requires that we take a further 89 person-years out of our current staffing plans.

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Second, I refer members to the first table in their briefing material. This table shows an increase in total ministry funding of \$82.3 million, which includes a net increase of \$72.3 million in transfer payments and only \$10 million for all internal operating purposes. However, the increase of \$10 million in our operating budget is offset by \$7 million for the onetime cost of the enumeration exercise, as well as \$7 million for negotiated salary awards. This means that our operating funds have actually been reduced by \$4 million, even without considering the erosive effects of inflation at around four per cent.

In addition, subsequent to the preparation of these estimates, the Treasurer's government-wide constraint has reduced the ministry's estimates by \$6.1 million. However, I can assure

members that we are determined to meet this challenge by exploiting new opportunities to increase productivity throughout the ministry. I shall say more about this later in my presentation.

Monsieur le Président, je désire maintenant passer brièvement en revue quelques-unes des réalisations et des priorités les plus importantes dans le cadre des principaux programmes du Ministère, lesquelles figurent dans les documents imprimés.

The tax revenue and grants program is responsible for the administration of 16 statutes which cover 11 provincial taxes, including retail sales tax and corporations tax; Ontario's guaranteed income and tax grants programs for seniors; the small business development corporations programs; as well as the new employee share ownership plan, ESOP, and the Ontario home ownership savings plan, OHOSP. As shown in the briefing material, the program will be expected to work within very tight expenditure and staffing limits in 1988-89.

For example, while total funding is increased by \$71 million, transfer payments primarily to senior citizens and the new ESOP and OHOSP programs will be increased by \$72.3 million. This means that the funds available for operating purposes will actually be reduced by \$1.3 million. Indeed, the program will have to absorb a further reduction of \$2 million in operating funds under the Treasurer's in-year budget constraints. I shall now discuss some of the more important challenges facing this program in 1988-89.

Revenue and workload growth: First, in contrast to reduced resources, the program will have to deal with considerable increases in workload volumes and complexity, as well as the new programs I mentioned earlier. This fiscal year, the ministry expects to collect about \$15 billion from provincial taxes. This represents 43 per cent of budgetary revenues, with the other main sources being personal income tax collected by Ottawa, and federal shared-cost payments for such programs as health services and post-secondary education. To achieve the potential revenue increases generated by Ontario's healthy economy, however, the ministry will have to manage significant increases in tax rolls and require transactions and customer services.

For example, the corporations tax roll is expected to increase by seven per cent, or 25,000 corporations, while the number of retail sales tax vendors will increase by 11 per cent, or 28,000.

Deuxièmement, outre les charges de travail accrues engendrées par la croissance économi-

que, le Régime devra incorporer un certain nombre de nouveaux programmes et de modifications à la politique fiscale.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, j'ai déjà parlé du nouveau Régime actionnariat des employés, ou RADE, et du nouveau Régime d'épargne-logement de l'Ontario, ou RELO. Ces deux initiatives sous-tendent l'établissement de nouvelles structures administratives, d'un nouveau programme complet de formation du personnel, de systèmes informatiques et de méthodes de communication et services spécialement conçus pour aider les clients potentiels.

Le budget de 1988 comprenait également une série de mesures nécessitant des changements dans notre organisation. Parmi ces mesures, la principale demeure la «superdéduction» de l'impôt sur le revenu des compagnies, afférente à la recherche et au développement scientifiques, dans le but d'accroître le caractère concurrentiel de l'Ontario.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai eu le plaisir de vous informer que les programmes RADE et RELO connaissent un bon départ. Malgré tout cela, trois régimes ont déjà été établis, et nous savons qu'un nombre encore plus élevé de régimes sont actuellement en cours de planification.

I shall now turn to my ministry's property assessment program. By way of introduction, the members might note that this is the largest property assessment program in North America in terms of territory and the number of municipal and school board clients, as well as the number of properties managed.

The purpose of the program is threefold: First, we seek to maximize municipal and school board property tax revenues by providing them with consistent and defensible tax bases; our second objective is to ensure that individual properties are assessed in a fair and equitable manner; third, we work to provide ratepayers with all the assistance they need to understand how they are assessed.

The assessment program is responsible for \$425 billion in current assessment, which in turn generates over \$8 billion in municipal and school revenues. As well, the program enumerates over three million households for municipal and school board elections and maintains computerized information on five million property owners and occupants.

Turning to the program's estimates, the members will note an increase in total expenditures of \$98.9 million or 10.7 per cent over last year. However, this increase is attributable to the one-time expense associated with the recent

enumeration of voters for the November municipal elections. These costs will not be repeated next year. No allowance has been made for workload and cost increases elsewhere in the program. Similarly, increased staffing levels are entirely for temporary staff for the enumeration exercise.

I shall now deal briefly with three noteworthy developments in the assessment program for the year 1988-89.

I believe the members are very familiar with the ministry's section 63 and section 70 programs, by which municipalities may voluntarily request reassessments to achieve greater consistency and equity in property taxation. Since 1979, these programs have received widespread support from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and from all levels of municipal government. This is demonstrated by three basic facts.

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First, to date, 655 or 78 per cent of all Ontario municipalities have requested and received section 63 or section 70 reassessments. Indeed, 302 have received updates. Second, every year the number of requests for first-time reassessments or updates exceeds our capacity. Third, on the basis of the program's success with local municipalities, it is being accepted by increasing numbers of counties and regions as the basis for achieving wider equity in taxation and sharing upper-tier cost.

To date, the regions of Sudbury, Haldimand-Norfolk and Waterloo, comprising 20 area municipalities, have been reassessed, along with the counties of Brant and Huron, comprising 33 municipalities. In addition, we have already received requests from another 15 counties and regions for early implementation.

Finally, I am hopeful that after the November elections, the new Metropolitan Toronto council will turn to the question of reassessment as a means of replacing Metro's seriously flawed and antiquated property tax base.

Another important responsibility of this program is to ensure that new construction and major changes to existing properties are quickly brought on to the municipal rolls. This is particularly important to their ability to contain tax increases and to finance expenditures associated with economic growth.

On this front, the members will be aware of the massive growth in industrial, commercial and residential construction across Ontario, particularly in southern regions. As a result, the ministry has had to significantly redeploy resources to fulfil its commitment to municipalities.

I would like to put this into perspective.

First, last year we delivered supplementary assessments generating extra revenues of \$209 million province-wide. By contrast, in 1988, supplementaries have already generated \$230 million. I expect the year-end total to be in the order of \$340 million or 63 per cent over 1987.

Second, the numbers for the greater Toronto area are even more staggering. Compared to \$137 million in extra revenue generated by supplementaries in 1987, to date, we have already delivered supplementaries worth \$130 million in extra revenues. The expected year-end total is \$212 million, representing an increase of 55 per cent over 1987.

Finally, let me turn to the enumeration exercise for the November 14 municipal elections, including the identification of French-language school trustee electors.

In the past, enumerations were conducted using the traditional method of door-to-door canvassing. Under Bill 77, the Municipal Elections Statute Law Amendment Act, 1987, the method of enumeration was changed. Municipal enumeration notices were mailed to all property owners. Subsequently, enumerators went door to door to collect information where forms were not returned. Finally, voter identification notices were mailed between August 26 and August 31, 1988.

This new method of enumeration was a major undertaking, requiring a number of significant actions, including a comprehensive multimedia and bilingual communications campaign to inform all Ontario residents of the importance of completing and returning their enumeration forms.

The end results have fully demonstrated the effectiveness of the new method of enumeration. For example, 76 per cent of the forms were returned completed, which together with follow-up visits achieved a province-wide coverage of over 90 per cent of Ontario residents. This success story is further demonstrated by a coverage rate of up to 98 per cent in various locations across the province.

The enumeration process included a rigorous quality assurance program. Statistical sampling procedures conducted by regional office staff indicated a maximum error rate slightly in excess of two per cent in the target group with lows of 0.5 per cent.

This response allowed the ministry to deliver 1,000 preliminary voters' lists to municipalities and school boards before the July 29 deadline. Also, to verify the accuracy of information

received, the ministry for the first time mailed voter identification notices to 3.7 million households.

Bien que la nouvelle méthode servant à déterminer le nombre de conseillers scolaires de langue française dans certaines régions ait soulevé quelques controverses, je suis sûr que le nouveau processus de recensement a permis d'atteindre des résultats bien supérieurs à ceux de l'an dernier.

Maintenant, passons à la Caisse d'épargne de l'Ontario. Comme l'indique la dernière section du résumé que les députés ont reçu, le financement de ce programme est également maintenu au même niveau. La Caisse d'épargne de l'Ontario doit remplir deux objectifs commerciaux: tout d'abord, assurer une source de financement au Trésor à des taux inférieurs à ceux qui sont accordés par des institutions externes; et ensuite, offrir à ses clients un service à la clientèle à des taux d'intérêt concurrentiels.

Au cours des dernières années, la Caisse d'épargne de l'Ontario a souffert de son incapacité de concurrencer les autres institutions financières en offrant une gamme plus vaste de comptes répondant aux exigences et aux préférences individuelles des clients. Toutefois, le leadership du Trésorier (M. R. F. Nixon) a entraîné d'importants changements à cet égard.

En premier lieu, depuis le lancement de «Trillium», notre compte-chèques à intérêt quotidien, il y a au moins trois ans, les dépôts à la Caisse d'épargne de l'Ontario ont pratiquement doublé, passant de 650 millions de dollars à près de 1,1 milliard de dollars.

Deuxièmement, la Caisse d'épargne de l'Ontario a lancé, il y a trois ans cette année, les certificats de placement garanti de l'Ontario, dont les ventes se chiffrent déjà à 71 millions de dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I believe you will agree that these results provide strong evidence that the Province of Ontario Savings Office is working to the mutual benefit of both the province and its customers.

As the briefing material and my remarks demonstrate, the ministry must continually deal with the steady increases in business workloads and new responsibilities in the face of severely restricted funding and staffing levels.

I believe the ministry has a proven track record of using every opportunity and every means to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its program. However, I would like to report on some recent successes involving the exploitation of new information technology.

A new Revenue computing centre: While my ministry has invested heavily in computer systems and end-user technology in all programs, we have traditionally used programs and private-sector service bureaus for basic data processing. In 1987, however, Management Board of Cabinet approved the purchase of a mainframe processor to be dedicated to Revenue business and installed in our Oshawa head office.

I am pleased to report that this was accomplished on time and within budget and all database programs were successfully transferred without any disruptions to our operations, revenue flows and public services.

As well, a detailed post-implementation report to Management Board has demonstrated that we have met or exceeded every commitment in our original business case. Most particularly, the new facility will allow us to deal with workload increases over the next four years within fixed limits and will generate total savings to the government of \$51 million by avoiding cost increases which would occur if we continued to use external processing bureaus.

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Let us pass on to the Ontario assessment system, or Oasys. In 1986 we completed our largest investment in computer systems. It is Oasys which provides a full range of on-line data services to our 41 assessment offices—is it not 31?—across the province.

Mr. Chairman: Because of the time of the clock, do you want to stop there?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Yes, I could go on for another 15 or 20 minutes, but I want to respect the time allocation. I hope that on Monday, I will be able to give more good news from this ministry.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre, the committee of supply reported progress.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of this House for the week upcoming.

On Monday, October 31, we will continue the consideration of the estimates of the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) in the committee of supply.

On Tuesday, November 1, we will deal with second reading of Bill 180, the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, and then resume the adjourned debate on Bill 162, the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act.

On Wednesday, November 2, we will continue the debate on Bill 162, the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act.

On Thursday, November 3, in the morning, we will consider the private members' business

standing in the names of Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Philip. In the afternoon we will deal with the estimates of the office of francophone affairs in the committee of supply.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, October 31, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, October 31, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION FINANCES

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House I have today laid upon the table recommendations from the Commission on Election Finances, pursuant to subsection 4(3) of the Election Finances Act.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PREPAID SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: I wish to emphasize weaknesses in recently enacted legislation, the Prepaid Services Act, as it applies to fitness and health clubs. The act does not provide sufficient protection for consumers. The law does not provide for a compensation fund similar to that which exists in the travel industry. If a health club folds at any time, members are not guaranteed their money back.

I would also suggest that where people have paid membership money into a new club that fails to become operational, these individuals should be entitled not only to a refund of their membership money but to interest at the prevailing rates.

Neither does the legislation address the whole area of public safety. There are no requirements for thorough checks to ensure that members are fit enough to use facilities safely, nor is it mandatory for facilities to be staffed at all times by people trained in approved lifesaving techniques. Indeed, there are no minimum training or education requirements for club employees.

I urge the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) to address these loopholes in the legislation so that consumers receive appropriate financial protection and to ensure that consumers do not put their health at risk in these facilities.

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to bring to the attention of this House a concern that many of my constituents have expressed about the recent court decision concerning the Lord's Prayer in public schools. I recently tabled petitions con-

taining many hundreds of signatures from various groups in my riding expressing concern about this matter, and I feel there is much merit in these petitions.

While I accept that in a pluralistic society we must recognize and provide appropriate conditions for the expression of those of other religions and beliefs, I hope the boards of education will not abandon the saying of the Lord's Prayer but will continue to give this prayer a place in proportion to the number of students within their jurisdiction who uphold its teaching and tradition. Certainly in areas such as mine, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Wellington County Board of Education, the proportion of these students is very high.

A few minutes ago, the members of this House participated in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, a tradition that we have followed for over a century. I sincerely hope we have no intention of abandoning this practice.

CAROLE BERRY

Mr. Offer: I am delighted to inform the House that Mrs. Carole Berry of my riding of Mississauga North has received one of the crime prevention awards, on behalf of the Malton community council, from the Office of the Solicitor General. These awards recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations in increasing public awareness and participation in crime prevention programs.

Nominated by Inspector Banting of the Peel Regional Police Force, Mrs. Berry, in conjunction with the Malton community council, has been very successful in raising community awareness, especially within the predominantly multicultural community of Malton.

The Malton community council has been able to heighten awareness through a number of ambitious programs. For example, flyers have been distributed by participating community watch programs. The local cable program known in my community as Malton Mosaic has devoted time to exploring and discussing the benefits of watch programs and home security programs, and perhaps most important is the high level of co-operation between the police force and this community-based organization.

Because of her efforts, there have been noticeable increases in participation in Neighbourhood Watch programs and requests for home security surveys conducted by the Peel Regional Police Force.

I would like to commend Mrs. Berry and her organization on this very special award and wish her continued success in the future.

PAYMENT FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Reville: People in Ontario had better start saving for the next time they get sick.

York Central Hospital has just instituted a pay-first policy. This policy applies whether or not a patient has private medical insurance coverage. The Wellesley Hospital thinks that is a great idea too, and other downtown hospitals will not rule it out.

I have already heard from a number of people who are wondering why they bothered to negotiate with their employers for additional medical coverage. The new policy is hard to rationalize in view of how easy it is for hospital admitting staff to validate policies, and it will undoubtedly increase premium costs because of the massive increase of administrative costs to process individual claims.

The Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) should be advising hospitals that Ontario patients should not be expected to arrive at hospital with a bushful of money and a fistful of credit cards. Or is this a glimpse of the well-planned, well-managed, fairly funded world?

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mrs. Cunningham: It has been seven long months since a 14-year-old girl was brutally assaulted in London by a patient on a Lieutenant Governor's pass from the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital.

We are still waiting for the promised report on risk management systems at psychiatric hospitals. I was informed today that it will be another month before the long-awaited report is released to the public, although it was to be completed no later than September. It is appalling that families which have been looking forward to an explanation regarding the Lieutenant Governor's pass procedures, as well as some assurance that a dreadful mistake will not be made again, will be put off for yet another month.

We expect this report to be given the priority it warrants in the light of the severe consequences that neglect will entail. It is totally unacceptable that we will be forced to wait eight months before we can reassure families that their children will

be safe to play outside and, just as important, that patients given these day passes will receive the support they obviously require as they take the long and difficult road to recovery.

BILL MASON

Mr. Ballinger: I know the members of the Legislature would like to join me in paying tribute to Bill Mason, an artist, environmentalist and award-winning filmmaker who died Saturday in Meech Lake, Quebec.

Bill Mason was probably best known for his many wonderful films. He produced the definitive series of films on canoeing, entitled *Path of the Paddle*. His film *The Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes* was a landmark environmental statement. But most people, especially young people, probably know him for his unique film *Death of a Legend*, the film that helped change everyone's attitude towards wolves.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will particularly miss Bill Mason. Millions of visitors to our provincial parks since the 1970s have seen his films over and over again and loved them all. People from every walk of life who attended evening programs in parks with their children invariably cheered when the evening's program included a film by Bill Mason.

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Bill Mason was particularly fond of Lake Superior and Lake Superior Provincial Park, where he did a lot of his filming. His movies brought people closer together, closer to nature and gave everyone a deeper appreciation for wild things and wilderness areas and the environment.

Bill Mason had a very special gift, and I know members of this House join me in expressing our condolences to his family.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Farnan: It is interesting that the media are now commenting on how this government is employing its backbenchers constantly and irritatingly to ask easy questions in the Legislature, taking up time traditionally available to opposition parties to raise criticism and providing ministers with openings to flatter themselves.

Surely government members can receive information from ministers outside the forum of question period, and surely this government will allow opposition parties raising substantive issues to hold the government accountable rather than allow this easy, soft lob to ministers in the House from backbench Liberal members.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. McLean: I would like to bring to the attention of the government questions in Orders

and Notices. Last December 15 I had put a question on the order paper to the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten), who tabled an interim answer on December 29, 1987, and said the other answer would be completed and ready for February 29, 1988. To date, Mr. Speaker, there has been no answer to these questions on the order paper, and I ask you to make sure that the rules of this Legislature are followed.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would like to rise to correct the record on behalf of an answer I gave to the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) last week.

The honourable member asked a question with respect to access programs. I indicated that we funded two pilot programs in this area. While we do fund two programs, one in Peel through the children's aid society and one in Waterloo through Lutherwood, only the Lutherwood project is officially a pilot program with an evaluation component built into it. I wished to be sure the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore was aware of that correction.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM

SYSTÈME D'INFORMATION SUR LES MATIÈRES DANGEREUSES UTILISÉES AU TRAVAIL

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I rise to acknowledge a historic day in the workplace for our province and for our country. Today the workplace hazardous materials information system, or WHMIS, as it is known, comes into effect across Canada. It is a day of justifiable pride for labour and management representatives, legislators, government officials and other involved people and groups who have worked so hard to generate an unprecedented consensus and bring WHMIS into being.

Les représentants des syndicats, des employeurs et du gouvernement, ainsi que les législateurs et tous les autres participants, ont tous raison d'être fiers, aujourd'hui, d'en être arrivés à un consensus sans précédent et d'avoir permis au Système d'information sur les matières dangereuses utilisées au travail de voir le jour.

As members know, the authority for WHMIS in Ontario was originally granted by this assembly when it passed Bill 79 in June 1987. At present, there are amendments to the legislation

before the House, which are required to enforce all of the provisions of the model regulations to be implemented across Canada. Once the amendments are passed, the law will be retroactive to today's date.

Dès que les amendements seront adoptés, la Loi sera rétroactive à la date d'aujourd'hui.

As members will recall, Ontario's legislation will go beyond the basic requirements of the national WHMIS plan. It will eventually include an inventory requirement that leads to the community's right to know about hazardous materials in its workplaces. It will also extend the workplace hazardous information system to include hazardous physical agents such as laser generators.

In the meantime, WHMIS is revolutionizing the way hazardous materials are handled in workplaces all across Canada. Under the program, employers are required to ensure that workers will be able to recognize and understand the labelling on hazardous materials, to understand material safety data sheets and to safely use, store, handle and dispose of hazardous materials.

Selon ce programme, les employeurs se doivent de s'assurer que leurs travailleurs sont capables de reconnaître et de comprendre les étiquettes identifiant les matières dangereuses, de comprendre les fiches techniques santé-sécurité et d'être en mesure d'utiliser, d'entreposer, de manipuler et de disposer de ces matières dangereuses.

Worker training is one of the most critical factors in the whole of the WHMIS program. The Ministry of Labour has financed a training package that has been developed by Ontario's nine safety associations and the Workers' Health and Safety Centre in co-operation with the Occupational Health and Safety Educational Authority, an arm of the Workers' Compensation Board. This training package can be ordered by contacting one of the safety associations or the Workers' Health and Safety Centre at the Ontario Federation of Labour.

In consultation with their joint health and safety committees, the parties in each workplace will have to determine their particular needs and may want to build upon the basic training package.

I am pleased to report that many of the WHMIS training programs are well under way. Ontario employers have until January 31 to comply with the worker education and training requirements of the WHMIS legislation.

I would like to mention that some allowances are being made for supplier compliance with WHMIS. The October 31 deadline affects primary suppliers who do not rely on other suppliers for their raw material. Once the amendments are passed, from this date, all hazardous materials shipped to an Ontario workplace from a primary supplier must be labelled and include a material safety data sheet.

Secondary suppliers, who rely on primary suppliers for their raw material, must supply employers with information regarding their product's risk as well as precautionary and first-aid measures for the purposes of worker training. They will have until March 15, 1989, however, to meet the WHMIS requirements of labelling and detailed material safety data sheets.

The WHMIS legislation will be enforced under existing health and safety law in Ontario. Ministry inspectors will also be enforcing the federal regulations for suppliers.

The Ministry of Labour is deeply committed to the spirit of co-operation and consultation which has been the true hallmark of WHMIS.

PROPERTY TAX GRANTS

SUBVENTIONS POUR IMPÔTS FONCIERS

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I would like to inform the honourable members that the Ministry of Revenue today began mailing the second instalment of the 1988 Ontario property tax grant cheques to eligible senior citizens throughout the province. Some 630,000 households will receive \$187 million, with an average value of \$297 for each cheque.

J'aimerais informer les députés que le ministère du Revenu a commencé aujourd'hui l'envoi postal du deuxième versement des chèques de subventions pour impôts fonciers 1988 de l'Ontario aux personnes âgées admissibles de la province. Ainsi, quelque 630 000 ménages recevront un total de 187 millions de dollars, ce qui correspond à une valeur moyenne de 297 \$ par cheque.

As the honourable members will recall, the first instalment of up to \$300 of the property tax grant was received by seniors in May of this year.

May I remind the members that for seniors who turn 65 this year and who did not, therefore, receive the first instalment of the grant, the full year's entitlement to a maximum of \$600 will be issued to them in the form of one cheque. It is important to note that the May 1987 provincial budget raised the amount of property tax grant from \$500 to \$600. The deadline for filing a 1988 application is December 31, 1991.

I would like to thank the honourable members for their assistance in the successful administration of this program. As always, we have received excellent co-operation from their constituency offices in ensuring that senior citizens receive their full benefits.

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YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Mr. Scott: Over the last several days, allegations have been made in this House and in a Toronto newspaper regarding alleged relationships between certain developers and certain municipal officials in the towns of Markham and Richmond Hill.

The Ontario Provincial Police and the York Regional Police Force are already, as honourable members will recall, in the midst of an investigation related to the town of Richmond Hill. I have today asked the senior officers of these two forces to extend this investigation to include the allegations involving the town of Markham. I believe they will conduct a thorough and independent investigation and the crown law office will, in due course, receive their report.

RESPONSES

WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mr. Mackenzie: We are pleased with the bill dealing with the workplace hazardous materials information system, Bill 150, that we have before this House.

I just want to make one comment to the minister and that is about the concerns I know he is aware of in the trade union movement about the interpretation of the word "consult" and the desire that there be amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act that clarify exactly what the interpretation of the word is.

The bottom line remains that the Occupational Health and Safety Act does not compel the involvement of workers or their representatives in the delivery of training, and, of course, that has been the concern over the word "consultation" all along, as the minister is well aware.

While we appreciate this bill and hope it goes through very quickly, we also appreciate the comments the minister has been making about the need for amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and certainly the interpretation of that word has got to be one of them, in the near future.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. B. Rae: Obviously, we are now in somewhat of a dilemma in that the Attorney

General (Mr. Scott) has extended the police investigation. I say "dilemma" in the sense that the investigation with respect to Richmond Hill has been going on for many, many, many months. I think perhaps it would have been more refreshing if the Attorney General had given us some indication as to the progress of that investigation and as to when or whether charges were or were not going to be laid.

The Attorney General says we can ask him those questions in question period. He has not been particularly forthcoming with that information when we have asked him with respect to other investigations, and I have serious questions in my own mind as to whether it is worth pursuing that course in terms of those questions.

But the point I want to make is that, quite apart from the question of a police investigation, which the Attorney General should know can be very extensive and very exhaustive, the questions that we have been raising in this House and the questions raised by the series of articles in the *Globe and Mail* extend far beyond the question of criminal liability to include such questions as the overall relationship between the municipal officials and elected people and the development industry, activity which may not be criminal in the strict sense but which may nevertheless have produced certain results in terms of the decisions which have been made.

We want to have an investigation that requires the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) to explain how it is that the ministry's own guidelines with respect to the use of agricultural land were certainly, if not circumvented, short-circuited by decisions made by the Ontario cabinet and, indeed, by the minister himself.

We would want answers to questions involving the decisions that were made at the local level with respect to the allocation of certain contracts and decisions that were made with respect to the provision of infrastructure.

Again, these are not necessarily issues which are going to be resolved by a criminal investigation. What we are looking at is the entire relationship between an industry which is growing and enormously powerful, and local governments which, in our view, have not been able to effectively control and direct development in a way that best serves the interests of the people of York region and best serves the interests of the people of the province. These issues are quite above and apart from the question of a criminal investigation.

I just conclude by saying that we on this side of the House continue to demand a full and complete public inquiry into questions involving the relationship between the development industry and local government and, as well, the relationship between the development industry and the cost of housing in York region. These are questions which need to be dealt with: questions of the monopoly on land, questions of the ways in which decisions are made at the local level, and the relationship between that industry and this level of government, the provincial government, as well as the relationship between the development industry and local governments.

These are the questions that will not go away, that are not going to be settled one way or the other by a police investigation. We should be focusing on these broader questions in addition to the simple question of whether criminal venality is involved. That is not the only question; that is simply one aspect of the entire problem.

Mr. Sterling: I would like to join with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) in calling for a full, public, independent inquiry with regard to these allegations that are made. The Attorney General must remember that many of the decisions that were made with regard to the development of this area of our province were made behind closed doors. The public does not understand the reasoning behind some of the decisions made. An Ontario Provincial Police investigation will not clarify the situation for either the people against whom these allegations are made or for the councils which have been dealing with the decisions which have been made in the past.

We have had experience in the past with OPP investigations. Our experience with OPP investigations in this government is sorry. The Wyda Systems and Graham Software OPP investigation has now been going on for over three years with no greater knowledge on the part of the public as to exactly what went on. I think we should join with the mayor of Markham, who has called for a public inquiry into this matter so that all names can be cleared. I say to the Attorney General that this is better than nothing, but it just is not good enough.

WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mr. Brandt: It is not frequently that I have an opportunity to stand in my place in this House and congratulate a minister for an undertaking that I happen to agree with, but I do have to extend congratulations to the Minister of Labour

(Mr. Sorbara) with respect to the initiatives he has taken—

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: Hold it down, now. I am not through yet.

I have some advice to share with the minister as well as congratulating him on the initiatives he has taken with respect to the identification of hazardous materials in the workplace. We, on all sides of this House, agree that there was a necessary level of co-operation that had to be undertaken at both the federal and provincial levels in order to bring into being an act that would have teeth in it and that would in fact protect workers in the workplace.

We agree with that particular initiative. We on this side of the House also think, I might add, it is totally appropriate that the provincial minister take an objective look at guidelines which are established at the federal level and, if necessary and appropriate, strengthen those guidelines, as we do with many other programs that are handed down to us or worked out in consultation with us from the federal to the provincial level. The minister is on the right track with respect to the undertakings he has initiated in connection with this particular act.

Second, however, I would like to caution the minister that in my discussions with various individuals who will be impacted by this particular legislation, the large corporations do not appear to have much of a problem in compliance because of their size and because of their financial capacity to respond, but I do hear some problems from some of the smaller ones.

In his statement, the minister has identified suppliers, as an example, as requiring some degree of flexibility. I suggest as well that some small corporations may need some flexible response from the ministry in terms of how this act is in fact introduced and how it is effectively legislated. I compliment the minister and I hope he will continue to build on this most appropriate foundation.

1400

PROPERTY TAX GRANTS

Mrs. Cunningham: In response to Ontario's tax grants program for seniors, we should remind the government that our party introduced this program some time ago. The real interest for me in this announcement is that it is simply one of mailing instalment payments, which does not usually take an announcement in this House. But we will take the opportunity to let the minister know we are aware that in May 1987 the amount

was raised from \$500 to \$600. We do support the move in that direction, but he should know we are aware that we are simply not keeping pace with inflation. The real issue is that taxes are up, costs are up and this grant is static.

The purpose of the grant was to assist seniors with their tax payments when they were involved in property with regard to education. Right now, we find this government spending less in education at the government level and the local taxpayers are paying a lot more. This grant does nothing to help the seniors. It is another announcement of the same thing. We asked the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to raise it to \$750. He did not do it. Shame on the Treasurer; shame on the minister.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. I want to focus specifically on the question of tuition fees and what it is costing students to go through university these days and how much debt they are having to accumulate and pile up in order to get through university and college. I wonder if the minister can give us a categorical assurance that her government will not be raising tuition fees.

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I would be happy to give the honourable members of this House some reassurances about the government's policy on tuition fees, because it does concern me that as people express concerns about future directions, there can be some misunderstandings about what the government's policy is and is not.

Let me first of all give an absolutely categorical assurance that we are not considering the issue of deregulation of tuition fees. I think we would have some concerns about the impact of deregulation on the nature of our university system that would be shared by the members of this House. Let me also indicate what our tuition fee policy is and has been, and that is a policy of increasing tuition fees on an annual basis at approximately the same rate that we increase government grants.

In fact, over the last years it has been somewhat less than the rate at which we have increased government grants. As a result, students in our universities are actually paying less of a percentage of the cost of their education than at any time since 1982. University students currently pay 18.2 per cent of the cost of their education.

The issue of tuition fees is one we will not consider outside of our commitment to accessi-

bility, which is a commitment that this government has made, both in terms of its statements and in terms of its very real funding support, to ensure increased access to post-secondary education.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if I could ask the minister how she feels, in terms of the impact of tuition fees and the costs of going to university, about the kinds of debts students are coming away with. We have stories, which have been related to me, of students coming out of the university with a debt as high as \$20,000 each and \$12,000 being the average figure of Ontario student assistance program debt now being accumulated by students.

I wonder if the minister would agree with me that a debt of \$20,000 as a prospect of what you are going to be facing at the end of three or four years of university in fact is a barrier to access and is a problem which the minister herself is going to have to deal with very directly.

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I would certainly agree that the prospect of very large debts being acquired over the course of post-secondary education is one that would be of concern. It has been of concern to this government. That is exactly why we have provided additional support to the Ontario student assistance program, 34 per cent over three years, and why by far the greatest percentage of Ontario's contribution to the student assistance program is in the form of grant assistance, not in the form of loans, because we are concerned that our support for students to have greater access and to ensure that their post-secondary education is affordable is one which is, in fact, given in the form of grants to as full a degree as possible.

It is also because of our concern that students' debt loads at the conclusion of their post-secondary education be ones which are manageable that we introduced the Ontario student loans plan interest relief program this year, so that those students who do graduate with some measure of debt and who are in low-paying jobs or who are not employed can, in fact, defer for a longer period the payment of that loan that has been acquired. So we are concerned and we have been dealing with it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is as if the minister is saying that all is so well that low-income kids are going to universities because they are not worried about the debts they are going to come through with. She is saying that 18.2 per cent carrying costs by a student are appropriate and will continue to be appropriate because the ministry is going to match increases by that amount which it

is passing through to grants to universities at this point. The minister is saying that sixth place in the country is good enough. Is that what the minister is saying?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: If we want to get into numbers, we will have quite a long afternoon ahead of ourselves because we have to debate the specific numbers. For instance, as the honourable member makes a reference to sixth, I would also want to indicate that last year, as I have looked at the most recent figures, our percentage increase in operating grants to universities was probably the highest of any province in the country.

In all sincerity, I would like to suggest that the whole issue of fees is a complex issue which is a part of the very fundamental question of a balance between excellence and accessibility. That question is one which this government has truly struggled with.

We inherited a post-secondary education system which faced very serious funding problems. The initiatives that were taken by this government to support enhanced quality and excellence in our universities would take me longer than the balance of our question period to be able to outline. At the same time, we have been concerned about ensuring greater access. As this House knows, we were faced with the largest increase that has been experienced in applications for universities over the last two years. So we have supported increased quality in education at the same time that we are supporting the largest participation rates in our universities in history.

The question of what is a legitimate proportion for students to pay is a legitimate question, but it is not the only part of the question. The other is how much assistance we provide.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. B. Rae: In view of the absence of the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who I had hoped would be here, I would like to address a question to the former minister, who I know has these facts and figures at his fingertips with respect to the auto insurance industry.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: No, not Corporal Kwinter; I was thinking rather of Private Nixon.

I wonder if I might ask the Deputy Premier this question with respect to the announcement made on Thursday by the Co-operators insurance company that it would not be offering new auto insurance coverage to drivers in the Metropolitan

Toronto area. I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us what steps the government intends to take to stop this kind of blatant geographic discrimination being practised by one of the largest insurance companies in the province.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think it really inappropriate that the honourable member would put the question to me, since I am not the minister.

However, I can assure him that the automobile rate review board will be able to be of some assistance in this regard. But I can also assure him that the minister, when he returns to his place, would be very glad to give him a more detailed answer.

Mr. B. Rae: The Deputy Premier was in fact the minister responsible for the carriage of Bill 2. He will recall he was responsible for bringing this bill in and for seeing it passed through. Can the Treasurer recall whether there is anything in the act which prevents this kind of geographical creaming off, this kind of geographical discrimination? This means that in the future an insurance company will be able to say, "We are not going to insure Sudbury," or, "We are not going to insure Sault Ste. Marie," or, "We are going to do nothing for Windsor." Is there anything in the bill which prevents an insurance company from doing that?

1410

Hon. R. F. Nixon: There are great powers and resources in the hands of the ministry and also in the hands of the inspector of insurance, who could require the companies doing business here to offer a broad coverage. I think the whole point of the announcement made by the Co-operators is that the cost of servicing its contracts is now well ahead of its premiums, according to its statistics, and it has taken this action as a business decision.

Mr. B. Rae: I am intrigued by the Treasurer's answer. I would like to know, from his recollection, as he was the minister responsible for the bill, what section of the act it is that will give to the rate review board or to the government the power to tell an insurance company that it has to provide insurance across the board for all categories of drivers right across the province in every part of the province. Can the Treasurer point out which section of the act in fact gives the board that power?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, I cannot.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was enjoying the exchange between the Leader of the Opposition and the Treasurer to such an extent that I did not realize it was my turn.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brandt: I want to address my question to the Attorney General; it is partially in response to his statement today. I would like to remind the Attorney General that last Wednesday and again on Thursday our party called for an independent public inquiry into certain allegations which were reported publicly in the *Globe and Mail* newspaper respecting the area north of Toronto, primarily around Markham and Vaughan, and the land transactions associated with those particular allegations.

I wonder if the Attorney General does not think it is time now to put aside the Ontario Provincial Police investigations, for which we have a rather sorry track record in this province, and to move into the public arena with respect to a full inquiry so that these allegations can in fact be heard publicly and disposed of in the way in which Mayor Bell of Markham has requested as of one o'clock or 1:30 this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I suppose it is true that under this government the traditional role of the OPP has been restored and we have directed it to focus its function exclusively to the apprehension of crime and the production of reports of crime.

What has happened today is that it has come to our attention, as a result of what was said in the House last week but more particularly as a result of these newspaper articles, that there is material there which might reveal evidence that a crime had been committed. To ensure that it was being investigated, we directed the OPP to expand an ongoing investigation to cover that material.

The crown law office, in the normal course, will receive the report when the police believe they have unearthed all that is to be unearthed. We do not control the timing of an independent police investigation, but when they make their report it will be made to the crown law office and if appropriate, that is to say if a crime is revealed and if there is evidence of it, charges will be laid in the normal course.

Mr. Brandt: I would remind the Attorney General that justice delayed is in fact justice denied, and in this particular instance—

Hon. Mr. Scott: What a phrasemaker.

Mr. Brandt: Did the minister not like that one? He has used it himself on occasion.

I would like to remind the Attorney General that the kind of justice which has been denied in this province and delayed for so long as a result of other investigations is exactly the reason, specifically the reason why we are calling upon him to initiate a public inquiry that would be fully

independent and would bring forward all of the facts in this particular case.

Let me read from the *Globe and Mail*, Friday, October 28: "Several experienced planners... said the regional and provincial authorities who vet municipal development decisions also give these men fast-track treatment."

I ask the Attorney General again: Do allegations like this not bother him? If there is nothing to hide and if there is no problem with respect to what has been going on in that part of Metro Toronto, will he not for once move in the appropriate fashion and call a public inquiry into this whole mess?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Of course it bothers me to see an allegation like that. As the honourable member knows just from reading it, the allegation is a bald assertion that certain persons unnamed have dealt with certain persons unnamed in a particular fashion.

It is precisely because of the lack of detail in the article that we have invited the Ontario Provincial Police to conduct an independent investigation, to commit its powers and resources to that investigation to see if any criminal acts have occurred. If they have evidence of criminal acts, I want to assure the honourable members that they will be brought to the attention of the court and informations laid.

I cannot control the length of time it takes to conduct that investigation. The OPP conduct an investigation in the most thorough way they know how because of its importance. When their report is received, I can assure the honourable member, however, that my ministry will act on it very promptly.

Mr. Brandt: Well, in our party, and I believe in the member's party, we believe that individuals are innocent until proven guilty. It is for that reason that we are calling upon the Attorney General to have a public inquiry with respect to this particular matter. We believe, as Mayor Bell of Markham believes, that the individuals mentioned in the articles have a right to have their say in an atmosphere that does not prejudice them.

I say again to the Attorney General that the only way he can clear the decks on this particular matter, the only way that the truth can come out in such a way as to satisfy, I think, the very justifiable questions being raised by the public pertaining to this issue is to have a public inquiry. I do not know why the government is reluctant to do that and why it wants to shove this thing behind closed doors, which is exactly what an OPP investigation results in. Again, from our

party, we call upon the government to hold a public inquiry into this whole matter.

Hon. Mr. Scott: If there are some political issues in this, they will be decided either in this House or on the hustings in the current municipal election. My job as the Attorney General, with the support of the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), is to investigate allegations of crime, to determine whether those allegations are supported by evidence and if they are supported by evidence to see that charges are laid.

The corollary of that is if there are no allegations of criminality supported by evidence, charges will not be laid. That is how people's names are cleared when allegations of criminality are made against them, or even if the charges are laid and they are acquitted, their good names will be maintained on account of that process.

The Solicitor General and I are doing our jobs, which is to take allegations of criminality, get the independent police force to determine whether the evidence exists and to lay charges if charges are warranted.

I want to assure the honourable leader that under this government, those things will be done.

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food on the same subject with respect to the development of certain lands in the northern part of Toronto.

It is my understanding that he received a telephone call, according to the *Globe and Mail* article, from the mayor of Richmond Hill requesting that he speed up the approval on close to 1,000 acres of land in that municipality for development purposes.

It is also my understanding that shortly thereafter, he got back to the mayor of Richmond Hill indicating that he was prepared to give his approval to that particular undertaking.

I would like to point out to the minister that my understanding is that those lands, according to the official plan for that area, were not to be developed for some 15 years. Could he perhaps share with the members of this House the sequence of events that occurred resulting in the development of lands 15 years before the official plan and as a result of a phone call from a mayor to his office?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Shortly after we formed the government, I believe a telephone call did come in from the mayor asking that he have a meeting with me.

I do not believe he indicated what he wanted to meet about, but being that this government runs an open-door policy, my door is always open. I have met with people, whether they are mayors

or schoolteachers, you name it, I meet with them. I have no hesitation about meeting with anybody who wants to come into my office.

By the way, I would not know Mayor Duffy if I was to run into him on the street today, but I believe that Mayor Duffy came into my office back in 1985 and talked about this proposal for subdivisions up in that part of the Toronto area. I said, "Look, anything that is done has to be done by proper procedure and it will have to have the approval of my ministry in accordance with the food land guidelines." It was as simple as that.

1420

Mr. Brandt: It is interesting. I am glad the minister raised the whole question of the food land guidelines. In 1985, and I believe it was either article 15 or 16 in the Liberals' platform at that particular time, the Liberals talked about the preservation of prime farm land in this province being the highest priority of the government.

Since that was the position of his government in 1985, and since he was the minister at that particular time implementing those programs, how was it that this particular development, of all developments in various parts of Ontario, received the kind of fast-tracking that it got with respect to the approval process? Could the minister explain that without telling us any more about his open-door policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Before giving a thorough explanation, I would want to check the files to see what has gone on back over the three years. But it is my understanding—I stand to be corrected, but I believe I am right—that we said at the time, my ministry comments were that it did not coincide with our food land guidelines and therefore we did not grant approval.

I believe I am correct when I say that, but here again, this has all surfaced over the weekend. I caught just a glimpse of the report in the paper this morning, and I have not had a chance—I had just come back from a function in the riding—to check my files to see what has gone on over the last three years. I do believe my ministry did not grant approval, because it was not in accordance with the food land guidelines.

Mr. Brandt: I will try to be of help to the minister, because I know the minister would appreciate any assistance we on this side of the House can give him. I want to suggest to the minister that on July 11, 1985, the Minister of Agriculture and Food stood in the House and said in response to a question from one of my colleagues, in the fashion in which he handles

these kind of questions, rather boisterously with his open policy, and I quote: "I am in favour of protecting agricultural lands; I want to make that point clear."

It seems to me there was another politician who used the phrase "perfectly clear," and I would not associate myself with him, if I might, at this particular time.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Brandt: Some five months later, cabinet did approve a plan to develop the very thousand acres I am talking about—I want to help the minister with those dates—five months after July, when he stood here and voiced his complete and total support for the preservation of agricultural lands in Ontario. How did that happen, recognizing that all of this transpired 15 years before those lands—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked: How did it happen?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Let me tell the member that I have not strayed away from my whole attitude on the preservation of agricultural land. He can ask my colleagues where my stand is as far as the preservation of agricultural land is concerned; he can ask my cabinet colleagues what my attitude is about the preservation of agricultural land; they will tell him.

The honourable member knows full well, after having spent some time in cabinet himself, that one individual cabinet minister does not make the whole decision for cabinet. We, as cabinet ministers, will put our point across. He can be assured that if my ministry were not prepared to approve this subdivision up in the north end of Toronto, if it were not in accordance with my food land guidelines, my ministry would have said so. I would have supported my ministry in that effort.

But as I say, before I can comment thoroughly on this, I want to check the files. I am not going to accept what the member is telling me has taken place. I want to check my files to see what has taken place over that time.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: If the Minister of Agriculture and Food wants to apologize for his cabinet colleagues, that is fine, and we will accept on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. New question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: That is the first time I have heard the Minister of Agriculture and Food say that the devil made him do it.

I wonder if the minister could confirm, as a matter of fact, that he did have this meeting on September 9, 1985, with Mayor Duffy and that on December 5, 1985, cabinet made a decision with respect to the approval of this particular project, which I might add is a project involving entirely luxury homes. The average size is some 4,000 square feet. This is not exactly part of the affordable housing strategy being put forward by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek).

I wonder if the minister can confirm that in fact that information was relayed by telephone to the York regional council by an official in the government of Ontario. Can the minister confirm those facts?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I can certainly confirm that I met with Mayor Duffy. He asked for a meeting. He did not indicate what the meeting was about, and neither was I the least bit concerned about meeting with any mayor who wants to come in to meet with me.

He came in. He talked about this proposal for the subdivision in the north end, but as I told him, it has to go through the procedure. It goes before the various ministries. Any time there is a change in designation of land, a rezoning, a change to official plans, it goes before the various ministries, as it goes before my ministry.

My ministry comments, based on the food land guidelines. Again, I want to check my files, but it is my understanding that my ministry at the time did not grant approval, because it did not meet with the food land guidelines. I believe I am correct when I say that.

Mr. B. Rae: This makes it all very interesting. In the absence of the leader of the government, it is very hard for us to ask the next logical question, which is, if the ministry was opposed to this approval, which took place in some two months, it would be fascinating to know which ministers and which ministries were in favour of the fast track for this particular development and development of this land for residential use some 17 years before it was supposed to be under the official plan.

I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture and Food would do us the favour of tabling any and all documents he has with respect to any transactions and discussions he has had with Mayor Duffy with respect to the development of this particular project.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I can personally say that I would not have any hesitation in tabling any

documents, because my ministry did as it is required to do.

My ministry comments on all these proposals that come before it if it means redesignating land, so I have no hesitation in saying that my ministry saw the proposal. Again, I want to check my records, but I believe at the time there was no approval given from the standpoint of their operating in accordance with the food land guidelines.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mrs. Marland: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Last week, I released some examples of slow response times in the Halton-Mississauga ambulance strike. I wonder if this minister has spoken with the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) about the 11-week-old strike. Is he interested in resolving it, or does he feel that those slow response times are good enough for the people of Halton and Mississauga?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the member knows that whenever there is a labour dispute of any size or consequence, it means an interruption of service, product delivery or whatever. In the case of the Halton situation with the ambulance drivers, I take what she says at face value.

It is my understanding that members of my own ministry have had discussions with officials within the Ministry of Health. Far more important than that, officials within my own ministry obviously are up to date on the nature of that dispute and what differences separate the parties.

Our mediators are there, have met with the parties on a number of occasions and are prepared to sit down with the parties whenever it appears that sort of meeting would be opportune and could resolve outstanding issues.

1430

Mrs. Marland: I am sure the people who have lost loved ones in this 11-week strike are going to be very happy to hear the minister talk about product delivery. We are not talking about product delivery; we are talking about response times. I am asking the minister again if he feels that is satisfactory, or does he have to wait until someone close to him is impacted?

If that kind of response time is adequate in his opinion, then why does he have the number of ambulances he normally has in Halton and Mississauga to cover those patients' needs? I am not talking about transportation; I am talking about emergency response.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: First of all, I want to tell the member for Mississauga South that emergency service and accommodation have been made

for her community so that no member of the public is at risk. I want to make that perfectly clear.

Second, I want to point out to my colleagues in the House that every time there is a labour dispute, the member for Mississauga South suggests that the government step in and legislate workers back to work. Now, if that is her view of the way in which labour relations should be carried on, that is fine for her and her party; but we believe that the most effective approach in this sort of situation is to provide the best sort of mediation service we can and to help the parties, in free collective bargaining, to resolve their differences.

I know she is not in favour of that process. I think that is regrettable. I just want to tell her that, in that area, I think all the steps necessary to ensure that the public is well served have been taken and will continue to be taken.

USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Health. As everyone in the House is aware, Saskatchewan was the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce medicare. But I understand that, more recently, that province has introduced a \$1 charge per prescription for those normally receiving free drugs. I also understand that this was not intended to deny medication for those in need but simply to bring to the attention of those people who are using them the effects these drugs might have on them and the overall effect of drug usage across that province. Apparently, it has resulted in a 25 per cent drop in charges to that province.

Can the minister advise the House whether she is aware of this happening in Saskatchewan and whether Ontario is looking to see whether or not it could be considered for this province?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the member for his question. I know of his concern regarding the Ontario drug benefit plan. I believe members of this House know of my concern as well.

My primary concern is always for quality of care and the fact that we should have the very best therapeutic results possible from our Ontario drug benefit plan. Any steps we take and any changes we make must, I believe, be within the context of quality assurance and quality of care. I want to assure the member that I am always willing to look at experiences in other jurisdictions both in this country and abroad whenever we are looking at modification to our programs.

Mr. Owen: Almost daily I hear of stories where seniors who have been prescribed one drug have suffered the consequences with other side-effects from the use of that particular drug. Sometimes the side-effects have been very serious for these patients. Is the minister aware of this problem? Is anything being done by the ministry, both with regard to the seniors themselves and also, more particularly, the doctors who are prescribing these drugs that are resulting in these side-effects?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member knows, Ontarians are among the highest users of prescription drugs in the world. He is quite correct when he says that every prescription written under the Ontario drug benefit plan is written by a physician. Also, every one of those prescriptions is dispensed by a pharmacist.

I believe that physicians and pharmacists, as well as the patients and consumers of drugs, all have a responsibility to ensure the very best therapeutic results of our programs. It is the reason I asked Dr. Lowy to conduct an inquiry into the Ontario government's role in the drug marketplace and to review our government programs. Dr. Lowy is presently holding public hearings and I look forward to his recommendations. I am hoping to have interim recommendations from him by the end of this month.

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL STANDARDS BOARD

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing.

Mr. Ballinger: We didn't think that for a moment.

Mr. Breaugh: You haven't thought for several years.

Mr. Reville: Stop being so generous.

Mr. Breaugh: Two years ago the government of Ontario established a thing called the Residential Rental Standards Board of Ontario. The only real problem with it is that nobody works there.

It is part of the rent review process. Landlords, such as the ones at 35 Brookwell Drive in North York, seem to have a rent review system that gets them a 10 per cent increase in rent. However, the tenants there are having some difficulty.

Is it because the minister does not have any inspectors working for this branch that they cannot seem to get work orders which are outstanding against that building completed and that they continue to have to live with ceilings that are broken, walls that are broken, doors that

have no locks, doors that have no handles, plumbing that does not work, electricity that does not work, paint peeling off the walls, holes in the walls—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Breugh: —rats coming up through those holes in the walls, complete access to the exterior without any kind of repair being done at all, broken windows, elevators that do not work—

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Breugh: —and maintenance problems on the exterior of the building? Are all of these problems simply because the minister does not have anybody in place yet to enforce the law?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The maintenance standards board was created precisely to respond to some of the difficulties that tenants in the province have faced on the whole question of maintenance. In fact, since the board has been in existence, thousands of work orders that were outstanding have been completed, and they have been completed because of the intervention of the maintenances standards board. In many cases, when the staff follows up on some of the repairs that need to be made, then landlords seem to move much more quickly.

Mr. Breugh: They are doing a hell of a job, considering that no one is working there.

How can the minister anticipate that this board will actually be able to do its work when it has, in fact, no employees at work now? There is no one there but the board. The best they can tell us is that they intend to have by the end of this year, more than two years after the board was created, five inspectors for all of Ontario. Does the minister anticipate that they will be able to do anything for these people in North York or any other tenant who has a problem with maintenance?

As the situation now stands, the minister will know it is simply not possible to get the work orders enforced. Even when municipal inspectors come into the site and find that there is a problem that ought to be fixed, they cannot get the work done. These tenants have had no success with that at all, and it seems to me highly unlikely that they ever will have until the minister actually decides to hire the inspectors.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question was asked a little while ago.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: What the board does is deal with orders that have been outstanding for a long time that municipal building inspectors have put forward. Since the board has been receiving

orders, the average time for compliance has been about 73 days, and there have been 500 buildings in the province where orders have in fact been completed and where repairs have taken place.

CHILD CARE

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Last week I asked the minister if he was aware of the restrictive nature of the Day Nurseries Act, specifically the regulation that limits the number of children who can be cared for in a private home to five. The minister agreed with me that the current legislation is faulty and that it does not address the specific circumstances in caring for school-age children in private homes, but he did add that his staff have been under severe other pressures, with no time for new legislation.

We have received numerous letters from London families and other families across the province who complain of some intrusive and harassing actions as ministry staff spend precious time enforcing the regulations of a somewhat outdated piece of legislation.

Will the minister reallocate his staff to draft a new day care act, as promised, an act that will eliminate regulations that hinder accessibility to desperately needed child care?

1440

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My recollection of the last time the question was asked was to the effect that the existing legislation was there for the protection of children. A decision was made many years ago by the government of Ontario, certainly before I was minister, that a single-family home that was not designed in any particular way for a day care facility, did not have particular playground provisions and did not have trained staff provisions, was not the best place for a larger number of children and, in fact, five children was the appropriate number.

I am not prepared to say to the honourable member that five is a better number than four or six. Five was the one that was picked. No one has ever demonstrated to us clearly that it is not as appropriate as any other number. I did point out, however, to the honourable member the last time around that children who would come in after school, simply because of their age and the amount of attention and supervision they need, probably should get a slightly different perception in terms of what kind of numbers we should permit, and I was prepared to re-examine that. At the time, I did point out to the honourable member that our legislation was under review.

Mrs. Cunningham: I suggest that moving as soon as possible is exactly what we are asking the minister to do. We want him to reallocate his staff immediately. Changing that regulation limiting the number of children who can be cared for in a private home setting would be an important move in that direction.

I am sure the minister would agree that many of us have cared for more than five children at once, especially when they are school-aged children. The minister especially should relate to that probably more than anyone in this House. His personal experiences, I know, will cause him to have some sympathy for our position. Families are quite seriously looking for that particular regulation to change, and I know he will seriously look at it.

In the interim, my question is this: Will he give direction to his area managers, as he has for the staff qualifications in day nurseries, that would give them some discretion to allow, where appropriate, that people with proven experience—because I think that is important—can care for more children in a private home setting?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The question has been asked. Perhaps the minister would like to answer.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The dilemma that we find ourselves in as a ministry is, on the one hand, as the honourable member suggested, that perhaps our field inspection staff is spending too much time doing these kinds of things. She is also well aware of the fact that just this past summer, in the Mississauga-Peel area, we came under considerable criticism from parents that we did not have enough inspection staff, in fact, to check the day care centres. One of those centres eventually had to be closed down because it just was not too effective. The difficulty is trying to balance the number of staff that we have.

The honourable member is also aware of the fact that we came under criticism earlier because, in fact, we had hired too many extra staff to try to do these particular kinds of jobs. There is never a right or a wrong way as to how we allocate our staff or how many staff we definitely have.

However, the member is correct in terms of the difference between the needs of after-school kids and those of during-the-day children. I think she is also aware of the fact, from a previous discussion, that we do have sort of a test program, a pilot program, whatever you want to call it, in the Mississauga area right now to see what is a legitimate number. We honestly do not know. We are prepared to try that. As soon as we have some sense as to what we can do that still

will meet the needs of parents and the safety of children—and I do not think there is any question between us as to the safety of children—then we are prepared to be a little bit more flexible, but I need to have some evidence as to just what those numbers are. Right now we honestly do not know.

CHICKEN INDUSTRY

Mr. Miclash: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Some time ago he indicated that the Farm Products Marketing Board was ensuring that the Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board develop a quota policy that would not discriminate against the people in northern Ontario. Can the minister tell the House if this issue has been resolved?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It is my understanding that the chicken marketing board has had its quota policy under review for some period of time as it pertains to all of Ontario, not just northern Ontario. They did meet just recently with the Farm Products Marketing Board and informed the commission that they now do have a policy available for all of Ontario, such policy being that there can now be a transfer of chicken quota without the purchaser having to buy the premises on which that quota was being filled. I am pleased to say that northern Ontario farmers who want to get into the chicken business can now purchase quota and transfer it to the north without having to buy the premises along with the quota.

LANDLORDS' RESTRICTIONS ON PETS

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. Last week I drew to the House's attention the case of Maraon Ryll, who shares her apartment with a 16-year-old cat, which has never caused any problems in the building.

She is a house-bound disabled person of 56. On October 18 she received an eviction notice, effective November 14, which gives no reason for the eviction except that the keeping of a cat violates her tenancy agreement. The case has been well documented by Jeffrey Freedman in a series of articles in the *Toronto Star*.

In view of the fact that pets contribute greatly to the mental and physical wellbeing of thousands of seniors, as well as other house-bound people, will she and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) take immediate steps to stop this inhumane and unfair discrimination against all tenants who own pets?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I would certainly agree with the member that there are many seniors who are living alone who find that the companionship of a pet in fact enables them to be more independent and more healthy for a longer period of time. We must balance this, of course, with the other seniors who live in fear of the German shepherd who may be residing in the apartment building down the hall. I have been consulting with the Minister of Housing on this issue and will consult with the Attorney General as well.

Ms. Bryden: The minister has mentioned that she must consider the other tenants. As she knows, there is already ample provision under the "other disturbance" section of the Landlord and Tenant Act, which allows landlords to order the removal of pets who create a nuisance or disturb the other tenants. There is no need for a no-pet ban of this universal nature that is now becoming widespread.

Will she undertake to bring in, with the help of the Attorney General, an immediate amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act to outlaw blanket no-pet clauses in order to stop the eviction of Mrs. Ryll before November 14?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: As I have indicated to the honourable member, I would be very pleased to meet with her to discuss the particular case of Mrs. Ryll. As the member, I am sure, realizes, Mrs. Ryll cannot be evicted without due process. In fact, the landlord must prove in court that she has stood in the way of reasonable enjoyment of the premises by the landlord or the tenant. That case, no doubt, will come to court. As I have said, I will be pleased to discuss the specific issues with the honourable member, as I know this issue concerns her. It does concern me as well.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Premier. It is with respect to the Globe and Mail articles on the development of lands in York region. I have raised some questions earlier, before his arrival, with his Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell).

Let me suggest, if I might, to the Premier that there are some very legitimate concerns on our side of the House that an Ontario Provincial Police investigation will not clear the air with respect to all of the individual personalities whose motives have been impugned by the articles that have been printed in the Globe and Mail.

It is our view that a full public independent inquiry must be held in order to clear the decks on this particular matter. I ask the Premier, in light of the fact that there seems to be even some disagreement in his cabinet over the approval of 1,000 acres of prime farm land in the Richmond Hill area and that there is some suggestion on the part of the Minister of Agriculture and Food that he did not support the decision of cabinet with respect to this particular matter, would he call an inquiry so that we can get to the bottom of all of the allegations that are now floating around, so we can clear those allegations in a fashion consistent with the call by Mayor Carole Bell of Markham?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Attorney General can enlighten the honourable member on why the government has chosen the course it has.

1450

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member knows, the allegations in the Globe and Mail raised the possibility that crimes had been committed by persons, assuming the allegations to be true. We believe, as I think most honourable members believe, that if there is an allegation of crime, we owe it to the public to see if that allegation can be made out and a charge laid. If it cannot be made out and a charge laid, of course we owe it to the persons who are named to see that they are cleared and that it is made plain that those allegations of criminality have no substance.

The step we have taken is to expand the investigation to include the allegations that were made in that newspaper article. It seems to me that is how we protect the interests of the public, by ensuring that those guilty of crime are convicted; and that is how we protect the interests of the innocent, by assuring that a police investigation in the end, if possible, clears them.

Mr. Brandt: Again we say to the Attorney General, as the Premier does not want to respond to this question, that that particular action on the part of his government is inadequate. I say to him, with respect, that there are situations that occurred with respect to the approval process, even within his own cabinet, that raise concerns, not necessarily concerns of any impropriety but concerns as to the fast-tracking of approval some 15 years prior to the official plan calling for the development of some 1,000 acres.

There was a series of phone calls made between the mayor of Richmond Hill and the Minister of Agriculture and Food or his office. There was then a cabinet discussion and, I might add, Mr. Speaker, if you can believe this, there

was then a phone call, not a series of official documents approving of the development but a phone call which expedited the process, indicating that approval was being given for 1,000 acres, probably one of the largest single residential developments in the entire province at that particular time. It was done by a phone call. Why was a phone call made rather than the official exchange of documents, which is normal in this particular case?

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is Hallowe'en and the leader of the third party is obviously going out tonight as the master of innuendo and disguised as the purveyor of gossip. It is the one night a year when he is entitled to wear those costumes and get away with it.

The honourable member has complained that as a result of the *Globe and Mail* article—

Mr. Brandt: Are you going to take the high road or the low road? Make your mind up on that.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member has complained that some of the ministries, he says, have not conducted themselves properly. This is the forum where questions are asked about that and he can ask every minister here any question he wants. I remind the honourable member that we have here the longest question period in the Commonwealth simply to answer his questions.

If the member has questions of criminality, they will be dealt with in the traditional way in the criminal courts. If he has questions to ask of ministers, they will be presented here and I believe answered.

CHRONIC CARE

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister will be aware of the many years that Windsor has been attempting to get a new chronic care hospital under construction. She will also be aware that it was promised in the 1985 provincial election by her government, by her party, that there would be a sod-turning for this new hospital by the fall of 1985, and it still has not seen a sod-turning. The expectation now is that the hospital will not have its sod turned until at least the fall of next year because of inflation costs.

Can the minister indicate whether she is prepared to intervene to see that this hospital is constructed more quickly because of the absolute need for these new chronic care beds in our community?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member would know of my concern to ensure that all of our processes, whether they are planning for capital or planning for operating, give us an opportunity to make

sure we are planning appropriately for the future. At the present time, as I know he is aware, we are reviewing many of those processes within the ministry to ensure that is in fact the case.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I think the people in this province are getting sick and tired of hearing the phrases from the Minister of Health about good planning. It was her party that promised that this new chronic care hospital would be built in Windsor and that the sod would be turned in the fall of 1985. Now it is 1988 and it looks like it will not happen until 1989, which means completion in 1991 or 1992.

The current chronic care hospital in Windsor is a converted school that is about 70 or 80 years old. Is the minister prepared to intervene to see that we have decent health care for our seniors in Windsor and speed up this project which she and her party embrace every time there is an election but do nothing in between?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member knows, I am concerned that we are able to provide appropriate facilities for our communities. One of the concerns I have is that, following ministry announcements, often the scope of the project changes or the costs in fact increase. One of the things we are doing as we review our capital process is to make sure we have a process in place which will respond appropriately to the future. If the member has a concern about any specific project, I am always pleased at any time to review that and discuss it with him.

Mr. Cousens: I saw the Minister of the Environment about, but maybe he has gone into hiding now. Is he about to answer a question? Oh, here he comes.

LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Cousens: On September 16 of this year, Metro council voted to spend \$300,000 to study the expansion of the Keele Valley dump site. Metro executive has recommended that its solicitor apply to the province for amendments to legislation which would modify the current agreement between Metro Toronto and the town of Vaughan to facilitate this expansion.

What action is the minister going to take with regard to the Keele Valley dump site? Will he in fact order an environmental assessment before anything else is done or will he be assisting in this crisis by looking for an additional site?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I have not received any application from Metropolitan Toronto for any particular work to be done at Keele Valley at the present time. What I have done with Metro is I have not given what you would call a generic

exemption or anything of that nature. But before you make any decision of this kind, you look for a specific proposal to be put forward, but certainly any proposal put forward would have a very close environmental examination.

I know the member, just like other members, does not want any particular site or facility located in his area. I understand that people in the area of the Keele Valley landfill site would prefer there not be any further activity there as well. Virtually everybody has told me where they do not want the site or what they do not want done. I am wondering if perhaps the member has a suggestion on where it might go.

Mr. Cousens: Indeed, the people of Vaughan, around Maple, are concerned with 1,000 trucks coming through daily, dumping more and more into that landfill site, which by 1992 will reach its capacity unless this minister says, "Let's increase the capacity and let's allow it to be doubled in size." A similar proposal was raised and turned down in 1978 when the Environmental Assessment Board said, "No, we will not agree to the doubling of the Keele Valley dump site."

Now what is happening is that the Minister of the Environment is just standing by, waiting for some magical solution on this. Meanwhile, the people who are standing by looking for something to happen are finding a Minister of the Environment who is not getting involved.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Cousens: The people of Metro Toronto are reaching the point of last return; soon there will not be a place to put their garbage unless the minister comes up with some guidelines and assurance that he is going to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. What is he going to do about these landfill sites, especially Keele Valley?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1500

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I can only illustrate, from the member who is asking the question, just how one person contradicts the other person over there. One day those people get up and say, "Why don't you pick a site?" I know that if I were to pick a site, for instance, or if the government were to pick a site, the member would say it is the wrong one. The next day he would get up and say, "Don't pick this site and don't pick this site."

The member knows the process that has been established. For instance, I was in Etobicoke.

The members from Etobicoke who are here would know that one of the—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Since some of the material goes from Etobicoke into the landfill site, one would know that the recycling program which was kicked off today, established today in Etobicoke, as well as the one we already have in York—and it is just growing around Metropolitan Toronto—is going to have a very positive effect.

I know that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), who represents the area in which Keele Valley is located, is an individual who has on many occasions drawn to my attention the concerns of the people in that area, not only as they would relate to a major expansion, as the member has discussed, but also as they might relate to other matters of the continuous use of the site at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: What I want to assure the member is that when any proposal is put—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That is quite a full answer.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if I might ask the Premier a question. We were told by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) earlier, when the Premier was not here, with respect to this question of the approval for the 975 acres of top-class farm land, that in fact this approval was not granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and was not recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, to the best of the recollection of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Despite that fact, it appears that the Liberal government approved the project on December 5, 1985. I wonder if the Premier would be prepared to release any and all documents which he has in his possession or which the cabinet has in its possession that would lead to an explanation as to how the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was overridden by the Liberal cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would be very happy to look into the matter and report back to the honourable member.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

PETITIONS

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Ms. Poole: I have a petition signed by over 200 people regarding funding of independent schools. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As parents whose children attend a Jewish independent day school, we are very concerned over the inaction by the government in responding to the recommendations of the Shapiro report which recommends funding to independent schools. As voters and taxpayers, we respectfully request that this government issue its response, which in our opinion should give some monetary relief to those of us who must pay independent school tuitions.

"Secondly, we the undersigned wish to be placed on record as supporting the efforts of the Ontario Jewish Association for Equity in Education, who have been requesting that all independent religious day schools meeting proper education requirements be accorded similar rights to Roman Catholic schools who are presently full funded."

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am very pleased to table a petition containing the signatures of 378 concerned citizens from Peel, Maryborough, Drayton and area, in the county of Wellington. The petition reads as follows:

"The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the parents and community of Drayton, Ontario, believe the Lord's Prayer and scripture readings to be very important in the education of morals to our children and would like to have them reinstated immediately as part of our education system."

I have signed this petition and strongly support the intent of this document.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Morin: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads as follows:

"Introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and

science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

MOTION

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the following substitutions be made: on the standing committee on regulations and private bills, Mr. Miclash for Mr. Ruprecht; on the standing committee on social development, Mr. Carrothers for Mr. Miclash.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES,
MINISTRY OF REVENUE
(continued)

CRÉDITS,
MINISTÈRE DU REVENU
(suite)

On vote 3201, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

M. le Président: La semaine passée, vous avez pris 22 minutes. Il vous reste environ huit minutes, je crois.

L'hon. M. Grandmaître: Huit minutes?

M. le Président: On s'était entendus sur une trentaine de minutes?

L'hon. M. Grandmaître: Avec la permission, peut-être, des députés, Monsieur le Président, si on me donnait de dix à douze minutes...

Mr. Chairman: The minister would have about another 12 minutes of presentation to make. Is that agreed? Minister.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The members will recall that I began the presentation of the 1988-89 estimates of the Ministry of Revenue last Thursday. Before I continue with my opening remarks, I would like to briefly recap some of the major points I made at that time.

In overall terms, I described the ministry's 1988-89 budget as essentially flat-lined. Not only is the ministry faced with the requirements that deal with the steady growth and expansion of workload in established programs, the ministry must also implement the new budget programs of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), such as the Ontario home ownership savings plan, employee share ownership plan and the corporations tax superallowance.

The ministry's budget estimates reflect an increase in total funding of \$82.3 million, which

includes a net increase of \$72.3 million in transfer payments. The increase of \$10 million in our operating budget is more than offset by the increases for negotiated salary awards and onetime funding for the enumeration process. In addition, the ministry's operating budget has been reduced by a further \$6.1 million as a result of the Treasurer's in-year government-wide constraint.

Last year, I described in some detail the significant developments and achievements in the major program delivery areas of provincial tax revenue and grants, municipal property assessment services, and the Province of Ontario Savings Office.

I also provided the members with details of the ministry's investment in computer systems and end-user technology. Most particularly, I reported to the members that the new mainframe computer facility installed in our Oshawa head office will generate savings to the government of \$51 million over a period of four years.

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I would like to resume my statement on page 41 of the material that I have distributed to the members and discuss one of our largest investments in computer technology, the Ontario assessment system.

L'importance stratégique de cette initiative a été confirmée par le fait que nous avons été en mesure de faire face aux augmentations massives des cotisations supplémentaires et des nouvelles cotisations mentionnées aux articles 63 et 70, sans aucune augmentation de financement ni hausse de personnel. Par ailleurs, les députés seront heureux d'apprendre que les fonds nécessaires à un tel placement ont été prêtés par le Conseil de gestion et sont exigibles avec intérêts. En fait, les prévisions du programme d'évaluation comprennent une réduction de 2,2 millions de dollars de remboursement au Conseil de gestion.

The strategic importance of this initiative has been confirmed by the fact that we have been able to deal with the massive increase in supplementary assessments and section 63 and 70 reassessments with level-lined funding and staffing. At the same time, members will be interested to know that the funds for this investment were borrowed from Management Board and are repayable with interest. In fact, the estimates of the assessment program include a deduction of the repayment of \$2.2 million to Management Board in 1988-89.

Finally, one of the most important recent developments in information technology has

been the appearance of the high-powered, lightweight laptop computers. As the first models appeared on the market, my ministry immediately moved to develop the applications necessary for their use by retail sales tax and corporations tax field auditors. In 1987, Management Board approved our business case to proceed to equip these auditors with laptops.

These laptops have already paid for themselves in increased revenue recoveries. As important, however, has been the positive response by businesses and the reduction in the time and inconvenience involved in conducting field audits.

Another benefit has been our ability, in most cases, to provide our clients with detailed printouts of preliminary assessments on the spot.

I might also say that Ontario is the most advanced among Canadian tax jurisdictions in using laptops. We are even ahead of our federal counterpart, the Department of National Revenue, in this domain. In fact, we have responded by making our applications available to our federal and provincial colleagues.

Further, the use of laptops offers considerable promise to closer co-operation with corporate taxpayers through greater compatibility of tax reporting and verification. To this end, my officials demonstrated the use of laptops in auditing corporations to a conference of the Tax Executives Institute only last week, which also resulted in a number of requests for copies of our software.

Thus far, I have concentrated mainly on the ways we are seeking to improve the efficiency of our program operations.

Toutefois, il est vrai que nos programmes touchent plus de gens, plus souvent et sur un plus grand nombre d'aspects que ceux de tout autre ministère ontarien. J'estime donc qu'il serait approprié de conclure mon analyse de nos prévisions par quelques commentaires sur l'importance que nous accordons à un bon service à la clientèle et à la simplification du processus en cause lorsqu'il s'agit de faire affaire avec nous.

In November, we will be issuing our 16th report on our continuing efforts to improve customer services. At this point, I shall merely say that the report describes over 60 initiatives in the past year, bringing the running total to over 400 measures since the program was established as a management priority two years ago.

These new measures cover the full range of our programs and will work to the benefit of many thousands of small businesses, senior citizens,

municipal ratepayers, francophones and third-language customers.

This concludes my introductory review of the ministry's estimates for 1988-89. I will be pleased to answer all members' questions.

Ms. Bryden: I want to congratulate the minister on heading up the biggest collection agency in Ontario. I think his ministry probably takes in more money than any other ministry and probably disperses more in transfer payments, as well, because it does disperse the senior citizens' grants, guaranteed annual income grants, tax credits and various things of that sort. That makes him a pretty important person.

This is the first time the minister has brought the estimates of the Ministry of Revenue to this House. We have not had estimates for the Ministry of Revenue for more than a year. I am glad we are having an opportunity to discuss the ministry.

Of course, the minister just collects the taxes and leaves it to the provincial Treasurer and the Legislature to decide how they shall be spent, but I think the actions of his ministry play quite a large role, both in whether there is enough money coming in and whether there are changes in taxes that might be brought in which would increase the revenues and at the same time put less of a burden on the existing revenues for administration.

I would also like to congratulate the minister on adhering to the agreement or proposal that we try to restrain our contributions to 30 minutes each, by each of the critics as well as the ministry. I think he pretty well adhered to his 30 minutes. I hope all members of the House will restrain themselves on the length of their questions and the minister with his replies because of the fact that we only have five hours. This is a very important ministry and it is time we had a review of it. I hope we will all exercise a certain amount of judicious self-discipline in the questions and answers to make the maximum use of the time, which is basically opposition time to obtain information.

The minister has given us a very elaborate briefing book which gives the basic statistics on each program, each vote, the amount spent, the number of employees and so on, but I find it really quite inadequate as an analysis of his ministry. For example, these are some of the things I would have liked to see in his briefing book: the actual cost of tax collections by tax and the number of employees who administer each tax, so that we have some idea of what it costs us

to have, say, a corporation tax of our own or a retail sales tax.

Second, I think it is high time the ministry got into step with the federal government, which produces an annual report on tax expenditures. Most of us know what tax expenditures are. They are the cost of various tax concessions that are given in the legislation and which people apply for, either on their income tax or through other programs; in effect they are really an expenditure and not a tax collection question. They are an expenditure that is never voted by this House. Therefore, we should have a reporting of such expenditures.

I will say that the new government did produce one report in May 1986 called Ontario Tax Expenditures, by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, but for some reason or other the well dried up and we have not had another report since May 1986 on that. It was quite a useful report, but it is now two years out of date.

1520

Other things that I think should have been in the briefing book are a description of the actual amounts paid out under the various tax credits, an analysis of who gets what: the amounts paid out to guaranteed annual income system people as to how many there are and what income groups they represent; a description of the number of people who have applied for some of the new programs that were adopted by this House last spring, particularly the Ontario home ownership savings plan. How many applications have come in for the program which provides a tax credit for people investing in stocks and in new kinds of entrepreneurship—the employee share ownership plan, I think it is called.

We do need some statistics on those. All these things really add up to the need for an annual report, which the ministry does not have and is not required to have by law. If we had an annual report, we could get some of these statistics, at least on an annual basis, and they would be all in one place where we could look at them.

The minister did mention that he has just put out his 16th report on customer service improvements. I may say that this is something I have been taking up with the Minister of Revenue in this House for many years, because I think the customer relations of the ministry have been, in the past, rather poor, very much assuming that all retail operators are potential tax evaders and they should be pushed around.

The appeal system is very poor. If they wish to appeal an assessment of tax owing, they do not go before a really independent board; they go

before another part of the Ministry of Revenue. Many of them, especially in the retail field, are not entirely familiar with all our laws and customs. They are not lawyers. Some of them do not have accountants. They find it very intimidating when they are challenged on their assessments and then are expected to defend them before an appeal process that really has another part of the ministry reviewing the whole thing.

I think there should be a much more independent appeal method. It is true that they can go to the Divisional Court, but when you are being assessed, say, an extra \$10,000, you would spend \$20,000 going to the Court of Appeal, so the appeal system is very poor.

I did have a constituent who ran a shoe store and who was a fairly recent newcomer to Canada. He apparently was not keeping the proper records on his sales, what was taxable and what was not. He went through a long process of trying to negotiate with the ministry to find out exactly what was the problem and what was wrong with his figures. He also came to see his MPP about it, but while it was happening, over a period of about a year, the computer was running and his assessment under this extra assessment levied against him kept going up.

Even if you complain about an assessment, the clock does not stop, so usually by the time you get through all the procedures of trying to find out what is behind the figures and the assessment, you have doubled the assessment.

For a small businessman, what was close to a \$10,000 reassessment amounted to about double that by the time he got through. He had hoped there might be some compensation allowance for the fact that he had not been properly briefed by the ministry on what he was supposed to do in the sales tax. This was over a period of years; it was not entirely during the period of this government. As I say, it went on for three or four years, some of which was before 1985 and some after. He ultimately went out of business. I think this is a very bad blot on the ministry's record, that a small entrepreneur with an immigrant background was forced out of business. I have documented this case to the Minister of Revenue in past years.

At any rate, these are reasons why we should have better customer service. I would like to see the latest report on customer service. I do not think it was included in our documentation.

The other thing I am worried about is that the minister says he is following the expenditure constraint program but that it is not going to affect the department very much. I would like to

know: Where are the cuts coming and are they the kind of cuts we want?

For example, will this program make the minister a poorer watchdog on those who might be tempted to evade taxes? Will the constraint program make customer service poorer so people can get fewer visits from a representative of the ministry to explain the taxes to them or can get less opportunity to get through, even on the phone? This is the sort of thing I would like to know more about in this expenditure constraint program.

I notice in one spot in the briefing book, regarding two taxes that concern me very much, it says, "This branch is responsible for the collection of all retail sales tax and racetracks tax in an equitable manner and encourages voluntary compliance through emphasis on customer service."

I am very interested in racetracks, as the Greenwood Racetrack is in my riding. I would like to know in what sort of way they are encouraging voluntary compliance through emphasis on customer service. What kind of service are the racetracks getting that makes it easy to swim through the red tape in collecting the racetracks tax? Are we really getting our full money's worth out of the racetracks tax?

We are not, really, because a lot of it is rebated back to the operators of racetracks and to the horse owners, so we want to make sure that whatever is coming in, particularly that the province benefits from, is the maximum that could be obtained. I am not sure what that section in the briefing book says. I do not see any page numbers on the briefing book to draw it to the minister's attention.

The minister could, of course, have more money to operate on if the government would put in a land speculation tax. It would bring in great amounts of money and it would stop the churning over of housing, which is creating great problems, and not only for the homeless. It is creating great numbers of new homeless but it is also creating great problems for middle-class people who want to buy homes, young people getting married. A land speculation tax would bring in potential new revenue to the ministry that would more than pay for itself. This is something the minister should be discussing with the provincial Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Conway: With no negative side effects.

Ms. Bryden: It stopped the land churning back in the early 1980s when it was put into effect. It is the only way to stop this churning

over; and all income groups in Toronto are suffering from it.

Another place the minister could get piles of new revenue is a minimum corporation tax, which they have in the United States. Our capital tax is really just a very minor tax all corporations pay, but there is no minimum corporation tax under the Corporations Tax Act and literally thousands of companies in this province are not paying any tax at all, and that is because there are so many loopholes that they can get various concessions. These are tax expenditures, really. We do not know how much each company gets, but we do know there are literally thousands of companies not paying any corporation tax, and these companies do have profits. I think that is an area the ministry could get more revenue from, but of course, the minister has to convince the provincial Treasurer about that.

1530

I am very concerned about the incident that happened on the property tax. These studies that were done by the ministry of the effect of potential market value assessment in the Toronto area were not released in detail to the six municipalities, although they had asked for these figures. They showed very substantial differences in the effect of a market value assessment system on the different municipalities. The city of Toronto would lose about \$93 million in the assessment and some of the other municipalities would gain slightly, but overall the ministry decided that the new freedom-of-information act did not cover the details and the resultant estimated assessment for each property.

You cannot evaluate the effect of a new form of assessment on the individual properties if you do not see the individual figures, and I think it was really a misunderstanding of the purpose of the freedom-of-information act on the ministry's part. I am surprised that they did misunderstand this, because the Liberal government came in on a policy of openness, that it was not going to keep facts secret and buried so that the Legislature, in making decisions, or the city councils, would have the full facts of any studies it was doing.

Fortunately, the freedom-of-information people finally told the ministry that it must release the individual figures, and I hope the ministry learned from that lesson that that is why we need an annual report and that is why we need more data released to the public on a regular basis on the effects of the tax collections it makes and who is affected; who pays what.

Today the minister announced an increase in the seniors' tax grant, which is supposed to offset

school taxes and make seniors more able to stay in their own homes, because they have been very seriously affected by recent increases in property taxes. The seniors' tax grant came in as an election measure brought in by a Conservative government, \$500 per household. Unfortunately, the Progressive Conservatives apparently had never heard of indexing. At least, it stayed at the same \$500 from its inception until 1987.

Mr. Cousens: We don't believe in indexing.

Ms. Bryden: I thought one of his members mentioned indexing of this particular tax in the question period today and seemed to be in favour of it. Maybe there is a split in the party there.

The increase from \$500 to \$600 for that seniors' tax grant occurred in the May 1987 budget brought in by the new government, but it still is not promising any indexing, so seniors may not really catch up, because raising it from \$500 to \$600 does not enable a lot of them to catch up to the increase in property taxes. Have they any hope of keeping up with inflation? If they do not have that hope, many seniors are going to be forced out of their homes because property taxes keep on going up both for schools and for municipal services.

I think it is being unfair to seniors to say the government is giving them property tax relief if they are stuck at \$600 for the next three or four years or until there is some sort of election campaign to prompt the government to raise it again. Seniors have to take the money out of their food budget until there is another election to raise the ceilings or they are forced into institutions because they cannot keep up their homes. That is, as we all know, a very much greater cost than indexing the tax grant.

The same applies to the tax credit which is supposed to help nonseniors, given the fact that property taxes are a greater burden on low-income people. The change in this year's budget was really minimal and gave a bit more tax credit to the very low-income people and took some of it off the people who are a little higher up but are not really on easy street. If we are going to have a property tax, we have to have some means of making it less regressive.

As far as market value assessment is concerned, and the ministry seems to be convinced that is the answer to tax reform, we all know there are a lot of inequities in our present assessment of houses and businesses and we would like to see those inequities removed. But to use market value assessment as an alternative yardstick is simply to put your head in the sand and not look at what is happening to property values in places

like downtown Toronto or even Beaches-Woodbine, where I live, where the land speculation is just putting the cost of owning a house and the taxes right out of the reach of any medium-income people.

If the government puts in any sort of market value assessment in the city of Toronto, it is in effect depopulating the centre of Toronto because the land speculation and the development plans are so great that almost every ordinary person of medium or small income will not be able to afford the taxes in downtown Toronto. Whenever a government forces ordinary home owners out, it also forces out the ones who are providing rental accommodation or rooms and that increases the number of homeless.

Market value assessment is a very bad solution. The New Democratic Party has been opposing it for many years. We think the whole tax reform should stem from the idea that the burden of property tax should be relieved of things like education and welfare, which should be put on the province to a much greater extent because it does have access to progressive taxes.

We also would like to see greater tax credits in order to offset the property tax. Basically, we think that if the government reforms the property tax in that way, then it can reform other taxes which are more progressive, such as the corporation tax and the income tax, and get a fairer tax system. We are certainly a long way from that in this province.

Again, I think the statistics we get out of the Ministry of Revenue do not make it clear how unfair it is. It does not show how many people are paying a higher percentage of their income on housing and on taxes than they should be in comparison with people who are better-off.

1540

I must say that I was completely puzzled as to what the minister's position is on market value assessment.

"On Friday"—that was December 6, 1987—"Revenue Minister Bernard Grandmaitre repeated the Liberal government's pledge not to impose the controversial reform"—meaning market value—"unless all six Metro municipalities are in favour of it."

Well, the city of Toronto has definitely voted against it because of the \$93 million in extra taxes it would have to pay under the one analysis it has seen and that is based on two years ago.

The next day, the minister said, "The provincial cabinet is willing to consider a property tax reform plan for Metro, even if the city of Toronto opposes the scheme."

So I have these two quotes, one from the December 7 Toronto Star and one from the December 8 Toronto Star, which seem to show that the minister either does not know what the policy of the government is or has flip-flopped and is prepared to go for a market value assessment imposed by Metro council on the city of Toronto.

Mr. Faubert: Toronto is part of Metro.

Ms. Bryden: Yes, but Toronto does not control Metro.

Mr. Faubert: Oh, it sure does.

Ms. Bryden: The ministry is supporting market value assessment without looking at other alternatives, other forms of tax reforms such as the ones I have mentioned, to take some of the burden off and make it much more a property services tax. They are promoting this market value reassessment without enough study, without enough understanding of what it will do to many thousands of people in many parts of this province.

They certainly should not say that it can be imposed by a regional government on a local government, because up until now that has been part of that program by the government and by the previous government that it should be done municipality by municipality and they should have the say. Really, property taxes are the most important part of their revenue.

I think also that some of the other tax sources could be opened up a bit to the municipalities to also take some of the burden off property taxes. There could be a small share of the income tax going to the municipalities to give them some more revenue and some independence in spending it.

I will move on to one question that I always like to ask in the estimates—I think I have only about five minutes left in my 30 minutes—and that is the question of women and their place in the ministry.

I have not seen a very recent crown employees' office annual report that used to come out on how many women were in each ministry in proportion to the number of male employees and what their average rates of pay were in relation to the male employees, but I would like the minister to report to us the figures for his ministry; that is, what percentage of ministry employees are male and what percentage are female and what the average earnings are of the males and the females.

Another question also: Is the ministry moving on pay equity? What percentage of women are in management positions compared to the men and

what percentage of women are in the top administrative categories compared to the males, because that tells the tale whether women are being assisted in moving up and working towards pay equity.

Also, I would like to know if the ministry has a pay equity unit, which it should have under the new legislation on pay equity that was passed a year ago. Has the ministry set any goals and targets for each branch to work towards employment equity and pay equity? Are the training grants that are available open to men and women equally? How long is it going to take, in the ministry's plan of goals and targets if it has one, to achieve pay equity as provided for under the legislation? The act provides for a phase-in period which we in the NDP think is much too long, but we want to know that the ministry is moving towards it. Those are the main things.

I would like to mention, though, preparation of the voters' list by the assessment department under the new Municipal Elections Act. The minister was saying that we have been very successful in getting a good voters' list for the coming municipal election. I do not know whether he has been ringing any doorbells as I have, with the municipal lists as his guide, but I find the lists are almost equally as faulty as the old lists we used to get out of the municipalities when they did their own annual assessment. If nobody is home, they have a tendency to just put on the people who were there on the last assessment a year ago. You come up with all sorts of people on those lists—which are now printed for the 1988 municipal elections—who are dead, who have moved and some who never even lived there at all, but they got the name from somewhere.

I think the monitoring of that mail assessment that was tried this year was not as great as the minister is making out. He says it costs \$7.3 million to put in this special monitoring and checking on the 25 per cent who did not return their assessment forms, but I think a lot of it goes back to the fact that the whole preparation of the municipal election lists was done with too little information to people, in too much of a hurry and with too short a deadline.

Of course, we in this party had said the whole thing should have been postponed until a period when there was more time to acquaint the public and to train people in what to do, and the government would not have had that \$7.3 million of expenditure. We would have had to have the municipalities conduct their usual annual door-to-door enumeration, but that has been used, of

course, in past years with some success and may have been necessary this year because the ministry gave so little time for this municipal election reform.

I am very much afraid that the municipal voter turnout is going to be extremely small because a lot of them do not know what is going on in all the reform, who they vote for or what new ward they are in. The confusion of course with the federal election does not help, but that is not the minister's fault.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Where does your canvass suggest that Tom Jakobek is—ahead, behind or sideways?

Ms. Bryden: I have not completed it yet, but I am worried that the municipal turnout is going to be very low because of the ministry's ramming through this new method of making up the lists.

It is true, I will admit, that there is some progress in that you can now get sworn in at the polls on election day at the municipal level. That will help people who suddenly discover they are not on the list; although they must be aware that they can get sworn in. That is another thing. I am not sure whether the ministry is advertising this new change adequately or that the municipal clerks are advertising it.

That is another area I would like a report on from the ministry, as to how it happened that a lot of people who are dead or have moved are still on the list.

Also, how did it happen, this fraud that has been reported in the newspapers of people being put on the list in buildings that are under renovation, not occupied and places of that sort? How did that occur? Could it have been prevented by the system or is that a flaw that must be looked at?

I hope we will have lots to talk about if the minister answers some of these questions. I am particularly concerned about property tax reform and that we should look at something besides market value assessment, and that we should look at the progress on pay equity and male-female equity within the ministry.

1550

Mr. Cousens: As I begin, I would first of all like to compliment the minister in selecting one of the most delightful parliamentary assistants we could have around the House, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert). I have seen such a smile on his face ever since he had his appointment. The kinds of things he will do to help the minister I am sure will help guarantee a Conservative government in the next election. But in all the best interests of—

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: That is an underhanded comment if I ever heard one.

Mr. Cousens: I just know. But anyway, I compliment the minister for putting him to work. I know he will serve the minister well and will also serve us well, too.

Mr. Faubert: You'll have a Conservative mayor in Markham.

Mr. Cousens: I do not want to get into municipal politics. I think we have to keep it on a high level here at the provincial level; but there are a number of things.

The people who are sort of taking in what is going on in the Legislature will realize that they are seeing something that does not happen too much, because ever since the Premier (Mr. Peterson) took office and this government took control of the coffers of Ontario, we have not had as many opportunities as we have had in the past for estimates, the opportunity that gives the opposition a chance to look at what is going on in each of the different ministries. It becomes something of an anomaly because now the ministers are too busy spending money and doing things to give the opportunity for the opposition to make them accountable for what they are doing.

The fact of the matter is this Legislature will not have as many estimates this year as we did last year. It has been decreasing ever since, which means that we in opposition are not having the opportunity that I think is a prerequisite to good government so that ministers become accountable for what is going on.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It looks like your colleagues can't wait to get their chance.

Mr. Cousens: I know. We will all be running just to get before a microphone to let the world know that we are concerned. None the less, the minister has released a fine statement of what is going on. I find that he does not cover everything in his opening statement of almost 50 pages.

I would like to touch on a few issues that certainly concern me. One has to be the size of the bureaucracy. It has gone up ever since the Liberals took over the government. They are just adding more and more people. I know it helps the unemployment levels, but they are also adding to the costs of government by virtue of what they are doing.

The bureaucracy that is taking place here in Ontario, and especially within this ministry, I say to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), where the administration programs—I have the numbers here. I would like to just put them on the

record in case people have forgotten how much the ministry is spending. The administrative programs are the programs that provide overall administrative and support services for the ministry and include main office, financial services, personnel services, legal services and so on.

Let it be known that in 1988-89, the Ministry of Revenue increased its administrative services to \$23.9 million from \$16.9 million, an increase of 41 per cent, a change of seven million additional dollars. That is what starts costing the taxpayers more and more in order to maintain that high complement of people the minister is adding to his rolls. This is not money that is going to programs or to capital projects, but instead is going to support the bureaucracy of an increasingly bloated government.

This ministry is one of the worst offenders in increasing the number of people who are just running around doing things. Now, I would not want to be critical of Ministry of Revenue staff, because I think they have been good people in the past, but is the minister not allowing a few slots to be filled that maybe could be kept empty for a little while?

I go through the minister's estimates briefing notes and on just about every page, when we talk about the human resources data, the staff categories have gone up and up.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: If the member reads the second, third and fourth lines of each paragraph, he will have all the answers.

Mr. Cousens: The concern I have is that the minister is just adding to the number of people, and I think we all have to be concerned with that. I wonder about the extent to which the minister is concerned with the high costs that are going into salaries, people and personnel.

Under many pages there are notes such as we have for program 3201, "Increases in salaries and wages are primarily due to staffing increases in ministry main office (dual portfolio), communications (French-language services) and the information technology division, associated with the establishment of the revenue computing centre."

That one makes me ask another question. How much money is the ministry spending on French-language services? I realize the honourable minister is also responsible for francophone affairs, but how much are we now paying out in all these costs for administration and people to have exclusively French-language people working there? To what extent is the ministry moving towards a francophone emphasis and what is that costing the province?

I guess in asking that question, what I really want to know is whether the minister has guidelines for the number of people he is hiring and whether or not all of them have to be francophone, the number who are francophone and what the francophone services are costing. We know that we want to have French-language services where numbers warrant, but the extent that these services are going beyond that is a matter of increasing concern to many people.

The minister has many different hats that he wears and I would be interested in whether or not he has any statement on the extent to which his ministry has moved towards more French-language services in the last year, how much those extra services have cost, whom those services are being directed towards and whether they are really needed in the light of the fact that our party has certainly asked for public hearings on Bill 8 and the French implementation. I see extra costs coming in here, but I have no idea just how much money the ministry is beginning to spend on those matters.

I would never take away from the importance of having French-language services where they are warranted, but I have a feeling the ministry is moving very quickly towards getting ready for the day when this province becomes officially bilingual. I would be very happy if the minister could clarify what his position is on that matter.

There is a whole issue that surrounds government; that is, taxes. People forget about it after a while. Once the tax has been levied, they get used to it. It is like a pain you are used to. It is there all the time; it is pressure. None the less, I think at this point in time it is well worth taking a moment to talk about the level of expenditures that this government is continuing to spend and the kind of taxes it takes from the people of Ontario in order to maintain these spending levels.

I do not think very many people understand just how great an increase has taken place in the last four years in the way this government has been spending money. In fiscal year 1984-85, the total Ontario government expenditures were \$26,898,000,000. This year, 1988-89, it is up to \$38,420,000,000. That is a \$12.5-billion increase. The change is exactly a 42.8 per cent increase in four years.

This is a horrible increase and nothing to be proud of, yet the Minister of Revenue is the tax collector. He is the one who is bringing the money in. I just wish he had some influence on the cabinet to have it be a little bit more fiscally responsible. Maybe one of the places to start is

within his own ministry. If he is able to bring down some of his own spending, and I have already pointed out how excessive it is, then that would be a good example for the other ministers and the other ministries to look towards.

1600

We are seeing a change taking place in total expenditures in this province that is in excess of anything we have ever seen before in the history of this province. The fact is that it has increased from \$26 billion in 1984-85 to \$38 billion in 1988-89. It is in fact something I would like to see the government constantly have to defend. It is not going to get away with it.

The people of Ontario have no desire to pay these increased taxes because it just never seems to be enough. If there was some sense that they were going to call an end to having more and more taxes, then the people of Ontario might have a chance to do some of their Christmas shopping in October and November, rather than waiting to the last minute and spending next year's money.

Unfortunately, the government had the biggest tax grab in this province in this last fiscal year. Almost \$1 billion from its budget has gone into the coffers of this province. Government expenditures, as I just said, are up to \$38.4 billion, up over last year by 8.6 per cent. Its revenue increased by 11 per cent.

I am saying that we as a province have to stop and take stock of just how much money the government is taking and spending, and just what it is not doing with it. We will get to some of those issues in a moment, but we have to stop and realize that we do not get anything for nothing. We all know that, but is there any way the government can stop and reassess its spending habits? It is like any person in this province who has a credit card and just keeps spending in excess of what his credit limits are. What we want to do is see this province live within its budgets, stop the deficit spending and live within its means. If everybody could begin to do that—I know it is harder and harder to do it, but here is an example in the minister's own ministry where the old prices, the old services, the number of people and everything else it is doing is going up and up.

How does he do it? How does he get the money? What he does is get into the business of levying taxes. We have seen some taxes dropped on us this year. I wonder why we have not had the debates on the tax bills yet. Does the minister not have any influence on what is going on with his House leader to schedule the debate on the tax

bills? What we have had happen is legislation by fiat.

I do not mean a little car came creeping in. The Premier and his budget man, the Treasurer, have come into the House and announced a budget, yet we in this House, although we have had a chance to debate the budget, have not had a chance to debate the bills that are going to come out of that budget. Why? If the budget was important when the Treasurer tabled it back last spring, we should have debated those bills then. I am looking forward to debating them some time, unless this government is planning to bring them in on December 24, just when the House is about to rise. Bring them forward. Let's debate those things that are important to us.

The people of Ontario do not want to have a government that is going to keep on laying out the taxes, but not have a chance to defend it in the Legislature of Ontario, where it presents its bills and we have a chance to debate them. I would like to ask the minister if he is able to give any kind of sensible answer why he has not had those bills debated.

The fact is that we have had a gas tax come along and generate \$1.2 billion in revenue, a 16.6 per cent increase over last year's inflows from gasoline tax. I would not mind if some of that tax money on gas was going into roads or into the infrastructure for services, but the amount that is going into roads and services for the people on the roads is minuscule. If the minister has any numbers, fine gentleman that he is, with all the resources of the thousands of people who are in his ministry, I would love to know how many of the dollars we have raised through gas taxes have gone back into roads and how many have not. I do not think it begins to touch upon the needs we have in this province.

The fact of the matter is that this government has increased its gas taxes and we, as a province, have quietly and silently been paying it out. What are we seeing for it? More and more potholes; more and more problems; it is taking longer and longer for people to come in and out of Metropolitan Toronto.

Metro Toronto cannot do it itself. The government of Ontario has to help Metro and York and Durham and Peel in building more roads. To what extent is this government doing something on it?

I realize that this minister is not equipped or ready or prepared, nor is he charged with that responsibility, but the fact of the matter is that the government is raising the taxes. Then when they drift off into the netherland, I do not see them go

into the areas that really count and that would really help make this a stronger economy, a stronger and better environment for people to come and go to work in.

I know that when the Canadian Automobile Association reviewed the government's recent taxes, it was shocked by the increases in the gasoline tax and said that the tax was regressive. The association estimated the new increases in taxes for gasoline tax will mean that the Ontario government will overtax the Ontario gasoline consumer by \$700 million in 1988.

I am just sick and tired of having to pay so much in taxes and get so little for it, and here is our Zacchaeus of the modern-day government who is taxing us and not giving us anything back for it, except more employees in the civil service and more promises and things like that.

I see we have our new Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House. I compliment you on your assignment and wish you well, Mr. Chairman. I hope you can maintain control. It is a pleasure to see you in your new office. I had that job for three and a half years and I do not envy you.

None the less, as we look at the whole area of taxes, here is a government that came along and raised, in this year, \$15 billion in taxes in addition to what comes in from the federal government and from other governments. I would just like to know if the minister could give us some comment on whether he is going to get more money than he expected or less money, and just give us a total update. I did not see that in his statement.

As we are talking about property assessment, I have to compliment the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) for her comments and for reading the Toronto papers and finding that on one day the minister said they would do one thing and on the next day he said they would do another.

It is the inconsistency of it all when we are talking about market value assessment and the effect that is going to have on the ratepayers in Metropolitan Toronto. They do not know where they stand because at one point the minister says, "I won't do it unless all the six Metropolitan municipalities want it," and on the other hand, he says, "I will support it anyway." Let's have a consistent answer on what he is going to do.

I have to go along with what my good friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine is saying, that what they really have to do is come along and review the whole tax process. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has been asking for

that. Is there any chance the minister is in fact going to look at that? Could he open up the subject for consideration? Is it something that is a possibility in the near future, or is it the distant future? What would it take to make the minister reconsider how to deal with assessment in this province?

I know the problems that are beginning to be felt by people who can no longer afford to live in their own homes because of the high taxes they are having to pay. The percentage of tax that is being taken from the local ratepayer for education far exceeds the level it should. For seniors, who have no one else in school, they have done their bit, yet we continue to burden them with such heavy taxes.

Everybody just assumes you are going to pay taxes. Let's have a time now to review how we are going to have those municipal taxes. Let's really look at it seriously.

In fact, as I read further in the minister's own notes that he gave to the Legislature just a few moments ago, he was talking about market value assessment. It would appear, from page 22 of his statement, "I am hopeful that after the November elections, the new Metropolitan Toronto council will turn to the question of reassessment as a means of replacing Metro's seriously flawed and antiquated property tax base."

1610

I would just like him to give his rationale for that viewpoint, to go into it in some detail and let us hear what his thinking really is. Is he really saying to do that in spite of the fact that the people of Metropolitan Toronto do not want it? Is there any chance he would force it down their throats in case he does not get his own people in there elected? Has he really stopped to consider some of the problems that are occurring because of market value assessment?

It has not worked in Mississauga. The people out there are not happy. When he starts looking at what he is doing, it is really changing things around in a way that does not serve the greatest good of the greatest number. He has a chance to do something. I am wondering just how much he will do and when he will do it. Will it continue to be to the detriment of the majority of people of Ontario?

When we start looking at different kinds of taxes, I do not think there is a tax that anyone likes. The Ontario provincial sales tax is one of the ones that really is a horrible thing that touches upon everyone in this province. It has gone from seven per cent to eight per cent, compliments of Premier Peterson's government. Do not think we

are going to forget about it. I cannot forget it. Any time you go to a store you are paying that one per cent more, and how many hundreds of thousands of dollars is that giving to the government? It is really hungry for money, our money, and it just keeps spending it without a sense of responsibility.

Let's just touch on one of the taxes that is very hurtful to anyone who is buying property. It has to do with land transfer taxes. I think they are the most heinous of the lot because people do not realize they are there. I had a question on the order paper that I asked the honourable minister. By the way, he is an honourable man. I just wish he could do the job the way we want him to do it, rather than be influenced by the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere or some of these other people. Surely to goodness we would then begin to see some of the things we saw from this gentleman when he was in municipal politics.

Here are the kinds of taxes he is generating with land transfer taxes. Very few people would realize how large they are. When the Liberals first came to government, the region of York in 1984-85 was paying out to the province \$12,768,000 in that year for land transfer taxes. Does the minister have any idea how much was brought in through land transfer taxes in 1987-88?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: We have all the answers.

Mr. Cousens: Oh, he has all the answers. He is a shrewd man, because he probably would say, "It was probably double what we got in 1984-85, or maybe triple." The honourable parliamentary assistant would say, "It was even more than that maybe, because we need the money to spend on other things."

The fact of the matter is that from the region of York in 1987-88 this government has collected and will collect \$63,362,000. That is a fivefold increase over what it collected in 1984-85. Here is the problem. You get a nice person like the Minister of Revenue. He puts on such a lovely image. He is so friendly and everybody cannot help but like him, but he is the mean guy who continues to collect these taxes from the people of Ontario. Here is the tax collector and I wish the cameras would go on him. He is not as nice as he leads us to believe.

Mr. Faubert: He is a good guy.

Mr. Cousens: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere says he is a nice guy, so make sure he is looked after. Give him another banana.

In 1984-85 the region of Durham paid \$5,200,000 in land transfer taxes. In 1987-88 it

paid \$24 million, again a fivefold increase. The land transfer taxes of the region of Peel in 1984-85 were \$12,400,000 and now, in 1987-88, \$58,740,000.

Let's just talk about land transfer taxes. According to section 2 of the Land Transfer Tax Act, the rate of tax is one half of one per cent on the first \$55,000 of a purchase price and one per cent on the balance of the purchase price. However, where the purchase price exceeds \$250,000 and the property being conveyed is a single-family dwelling or a duplex, then an additional one half of one per cent is levied on that portion of the purchase price which exceeds \$250,000.

With the average house price in Toronto now being \$200,000, the land transfer tax collected in such a transaction is \$1,725. Effectively, this means that purchasers of homes for more than \$250,000 will pay more land transfer tax than a businessman who purchases a factory or an office building for more than \$250,000. In addition, the businessman can write off the land transfer tax over time, while the home owner is unable to deduct in any manner whatsoever the land transfer tax payable.

For example, in Markham, if a house sells for \$350,000, the land transfer tax payable would be \$3,725. Anyone buying a factory in Markham for the same purchase price would pay a land transfer tax of \$3,275, a \$500 difference.

May I ask the minister to explain the anomalies in the land transfer tax? Why so much? Why has it increased so much from 1984 to the present? Why is there a difference between what a person in business or a commercial property has to pay and what a property owner has to pay? The next question is why does he not forget entirely about land transfer taxes for persons buying a home for the first time? Why not just drop that entirely to give them an additional incentive to buy their first home?

These are big questions. I know that what I am asking him to be is an advocate for the small guy and an advocate for the individual in the province, rather than the strong-arm person he has become in collecting so much out of land transfer taxes. It is exorbitant. It is too much. He is doing nothing with it, except adding to the coffers. When I look at the amount of money that has come out of York, Durham and Peel, these are huge sums of money, without the sense of satisfaction of knowing that the money is being used properly and correctly.

Mr. Haggerty: It's like land speculation tax.

Mr. Cousens: The honourable member brings up land speculation tax. There may well be a need for it in certain areas. I have worries. Maybe this is something the minister could look at: to what degree people outside of this country are coming into Ontario and buying property with money from outside of the province. I think we encourage people to invest in our province. We see that as a positive effort.

I happen to know there are certain nationalities that have made extensive investments in property in Ontario in recent months. I am talking about buying large blocks of property. To what extent does this cause the price of land to increase by virtue of the fact that they are seeing property in Ontario as a good buy compared to what it is in Japan or in Hong Kong or in other parts of the world—New York City or other places? What is happening with this outside money? Is it in any way fueling more speculation on land and causing land prices to go up here in Ontario? I feel that it is.

Is this an area that should be concerning us, knowing that we want the money and knowing that we do not have it? We are not a cash-rich society to the extent that some of these outsiders who are able to come in are. A negotiation will go very simply like this: "How much do you want for that property?" It may be pegged at a high amount and they will get what they are asking for. This is just pushing prices up further and further.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: A willing buyer.

Mr. Cousens: I know, but there is a concern because you are talking about some people who have far greater amounts of money than native Canadians have at this point in time. No one seems to be willing to address that subject. I think it is a matter of concern and should be a matter of some research by this government.

1620

The ministry will continue to survive. Death and taxes: It just seems that we are all going to pay our taxes and some day we are all going to die. In the meantime, we want to get the best value we can for the money we have to pay, and I am not satisfied that we are getting that value from the Ministry of Revenue.

The costs have increased in the past year. The overhead and the number of staff have increased. The government has increased the taxes, as I have already suggested earlier in my remarks, by a huge amount since it took office, and we are not seeing that money coming back into capital or hard services or to build a better infrastructure for Metropolitan Toronto.

What we are seeing instead is a larger bureaucracy and a larger civil service, not necessarily a more responsive one, not necessarily the open door that was described by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) today. We are just seeing that we, as taxpayers, are paying more and more and not necessarily getting any more for it.

I hope the Minister of Revenue does not take any of these comments personally. I happen to respect him as a member of the Legislature very much and I know he has a staff that has been very responsive in trying to respond to the needs of seniors and special areas that have problems. I know, in my own riding office, when we have called the ministry and asked for assistance and taken a specific case, I have had a good hearing from the minister, his staff or the ministry.

I would also like to say that in a number of instances the Minister of Revenue has personally interceded and helped develop new policy that has been responsive to some of the anomalies that take place in government, so I compliment him for that as one who has made an effort in the past to try to respond to these needs.

I am saying now that we are dealing with a very large problem with the size of government and making sure that this government is truly doing the best with the money it is collecting. It is collecting an awful lot of money. Let's just make sure it is spending it wisely and correctly.

Undoubtedly, we will have more questions on the details that go on as we look at these estimates. I am sorry that we just do not seem to have enough time to put the government on the hot seat to answer for what it is doing and trying to do, but I look forward to the minister's comments.

The Deputy Chairman: Would the minister care to respond to the speeches of the member for Beaches-Woodbine and the member for Markham?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I should probably start with the member for Beaches-Woodbine. I thought her remarks were to the point and very interesting. I know she is very interested in my ministry, because she keeps writing me every so often. We try to inform her of our new programs and our new approach to taxation.

Maybe I should start by accepting her congratulations on the announcement I made this afternoon on the mailing of property tax cheques to senior citizens. The honourable member will know that last year we increased the property tax program by \$100. To some people, this may not sound like a whole lot of money, but I can assure

the honourable member that we are keeping a close eye on not only this program but any other program to senior citizens, to farmers, to needy people in this province.

I think the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), all of these people, are very much interested in keeping seniors and needy families—if I can call them needy families—in this province up to date and providing them with the necessary dollars.

If I may digress for two seconds, I think I did provide members with an update of what we do for seniors and farmers. Some of our farmers do not pay any school taxes or municipal taxes. We are very proud of this program and will continue to provide seniors and farmers with this kind of service.

I think one of the member's questions was, who gets what and what group? She wanted me to provide more information. If I can find my papers, I have so many good things to tell her. Yes, here is number one. With regard to the number of guaranteed annual income system recipients and the dollars, in February 1988 approximately 160,000 people received \$114 million; that is the estimated payout. I think we are attending to these people, and we will continue to do so.

The member's question went a little further than that. She wanted to know how many people and the number of dollars appropriated or budgeted for property tax grants, retail sales tax grants, the Ontario tax credit via the federal government, the Ontario home ownership savings program and the employee share ownership plan. I can supply the member with all this information. If she wants to be a little more specific, she could send me a note or a letter and I will try to answer all her specific questions.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Chairman, I do not mean to interrupt, but there is a terrible smell coming into the Legislature right now, exhaust fumes of some kind. I have complained about this before to the Speaker. It is happening again, right now. Could something be done about it? It really is not pleasant at all. It is not from the minister either, I can assure the honourable members. Could someone do something about it? It happens rather regularly. Just stop and take a sniff. I guarantee members it is no reflection on my good friend.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Maybe we should tax this unpleasant odour.

The Deputy Chairman: Could I just respond to the member for Markham? The Sergeant at Arms has indicated they are testing the air at this time and further investigation will be undertaken.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: To the member for Beaches-Woodbine, yes, I will be pleased to answer any of her specific questions if she will only write me a letter.

Also, the member mentioned customer services. I think it is very important that I remind the honourable member and all members of this House that with regard to customer service at the ministry level, it does not matter what office one asks questions of or refers questions to, I think we are doing an excellent job. We are not perfect yet, but we do keep tabs on the questions asked and I am very satisfied with the customer service. But we can always improve it, and I am always interested in knowing where we can improve customer services, because after all we do tax people and we recognize that they do deserve an answer.

As far as budget cuts are concerned, I find it a little strange that the member for Beaches-Woodbine was saying, "I'm concerned about all those cuts or constraints in your budget." Also, 10 minutes after that, the member for Markham was saying: "How come you're increasing your budget? How come you're increasing your staff?" Maybe the two members should get together and realize that my budget cuts will certainly affect staffing, but by providing more productivity and more efficiency, I think we will respond to the Treasurer's liking that we do need to cut back a lot of dollars, but we will meet that challenge and we will provide adequate services.

1630

While I am on that topic, if I can switch to the member for Markham, who was talking about the increase in staff, I find this unacceptable. The member knows very well that 1988 was enumeration year, and whenever we enumerate people, we do increase staff; so let me give the honourable members a short history of staff in my ministry.

In 1987 I had a staff of 2,800 people, in 1988-89, 2,298, and of that increase of 502 people, 221 were part-time people, temporary assessors; so there has been a reduction of staffing in my ministry, and it is simply due to our efficiency in installing a computer system that will save the government a good number of dollars. I do not see where or why the member for Markham is criticizing or is accusing the ministry or the minister of increasing staff while actually

the staff has gone down, and we intend to keep a close eye on staffing.

While I am on staffing, maybe I should answer the member for Markham, who was asking me about French services, or the number of people employed in my ministry. As the member knows, I am also responsible for francophone affairs, and I will give the honourable member a more precise computation of the extra staff not only in my ministry but right across the government. I can advise the honourable member that in my ministry, under my responsibilities as the Minister of Revenue and minister responsible for francophone affairs, yes, staff has increased by six people, for a total cost of some \$400,000.

This is new in the Ministry of Revenue because, as members know, when the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon) was the Minister of Revenue, he did not have to occupy space for francophone affairs. We are combining the two, and this is why my staff has increased by six; but I will give a better explanation when the francophone affairs estimates are due, very shortly, I think Thursday.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine asked a question about the cost of collecting all these taxes, especially the corporations tax and the retail sales tax. I am pleased to say that for the corporations tax, including capital tax and mining tax, in 1987-88 the actual cost of collecting \$100 in taxes to our ministry was 56 cents, so I think it is a very good investment, a very worthwhile program. As far as the retail sales tax is concerned, in 1987-88 the actual cost of collecting \$100 was 42.7 cents, so I think we are very efficient, very productive and I am pleased to brag about it.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine was asking me how the racetrack tax was administered. As members know, the Department of Agriculture of Canada does have an interest in this. By deducting nine per cent from the triactor wagering or seven per cent from all other wagering, from the total amount bet or wagered on each race, this is how we collect our taxes. There are 18 regular tracks in Ontario and 35 part-time tracks. I hope members will not ask me any more questions on racetracks, because I have never been there. I do not know too much about racetracks, but I can tell members that it is a lucrative tax. In 1987-88 our revenue from such activity totalled \$75 million, and I go on and on.

Maybe I should talk about market value, especially in Metropolitan Toronto, because I know that my two critics are very interested in

market value assessment, or the lack of it, in Metro. My critic from the third party, the member for Markham, has now left. I will make sure that he is provided with all of the information on the questions he has asked me. I want to remind the member for Beaches-Woodbine that this ministry and this government continue to be very, very proud of our assessment program. I think we have top professional and qualified people to do assessments, and we are very proud of our record.

At this time, I would like to simply go through the number of municipalities in this province that have successfully approved a section 63 or section 70. A total of 655 municipalities, or 78 per cent of our 839 municipalities in Ontario, are presently under a section 63 or section 70; 449 of them under local section 63; 153 under local section 70; 53 region- and county-wide—Sudbury in 1985; Haldimand-Norfolk in 1986; Waterloo in 1987; Brant in 1986; Huron in 1987—and 302 update reassessments.

I think that our assessment program is a very, very good one. When you look at these results, it is a real success story: 78 per cent. I am convinced that, right after the municipal elections, Metro will be more serious than ever about resolving its assessment program. As members know, some of these homes were last assessed in 1940 or 1945. We are determined to work with them to resolve this problem.

We have always said that section 63 or section 70 is a voluntary program and we intend to keep it a voluntary program. We will continue to work with Metro as closely as possible, because I am reminded every so often that the Metro situation is a very special situation, a very delicate one. We have never turned down any of the Metro municipalities to work with us and we will continue not to do so.

I think we have done a great job. We intend to continue to work with sections 63 and 70 and we will look at other possibilities. We are an open government, and if we can find a better way to assess municipalities, I will be the first one to stand up and tell members all about it.

1640

Personally, I do not think the member for Beaches-Woodbine agrees with market value. I do not know where she stands and I am not accusing her of such, but I would be interested in hearing what she has to say on market value, because people do change their minds. Who knows? Maybe her party or the member herself has changed her mind.

Let's talk about enumeration, because I know the member for Beaches-Woodbine is very interested in enumeration. I want to repeat what I have said previously, that our enumeration program was a very successful one: 90.1 per cent or 90.2 per cent of our questionnaires, if I can refer to them as questionnaires, were returned. I think this percentage shows that even though it was a new program, this was a new way of consulting people on their enumeration. We mailed out 4.6 million questionnaires, with a return of 90.1 per cent or 90.2 per cent. I think the member for Beaches-Woodbine will agree with me that this is a success story.

Mind you, there have been some errors, but we will stand behind what we have said previously, that the margin of error, considering the number of mailouts, is acceptable. If I am not mistaken, I think the margin of error stands between 1.5 per cent and 2.2 per cent or 2.4 per cent at the maximum. I think this is great, undertaking such a new program. I think it is very well accepted. Having learned from our errors, I am sure 1991 will be an even greater success.

The member for Markham, who has left and has not been back, was accusing this government of increasing our budget by \$12.5 billion. I am pleased to remind the honourable member that we have done a great deal with these revenues. I think we have improved the Ministry of Health, which needed to be cleaned up, if I can use the words "cleaned up," and improved to provide quality services. I think the honourable ministers, the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston) and now the member for Oriole (Mrs. Caplan), did and are doing a fantastic job.

We will continue to provide the citizens of Ontario with better services, but naturally it costs money. I think people are willing to pay for quality services and improved services. They are very pleased that at least this government is listening to what people need. But we can surely improve it.

When we look at the budget of the Ministry of Education three years ago compared to this year, I think we have made tremendous strides. The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) is on his feet at least once a week announcing new and improved programs.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: He even gave some to me.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Exactly.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The elderly and the disabled and child care and young offenders and single parents and family violence.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: You name it. If I am not mistaken, the minister's budget has gone up by—

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Over \$1 billion.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Over \$1 billion. That is a great record.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The minister will address the chair.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I think these are costly services, and we will continue to improve these services.

Transportation was also improved. I think we have built more roads and improved roads in the past three years like no one else did in the past.

The member was also asking me about my tax bill. My tax bills are ready. We are ready to go, but the opposition has been filibustering for the last couple of weeks, ever since we have been back in the House. This kind of obstruction causes my tax bills to be delayed. I know we have had first readings, but we would like to have second and third readings as soon as possible. I hope the third party, or at least the member for Markham, realizes as soon as possible, now, that this kind of filibustering or obstruction will delay not only my tax bills but other tax bills.

The member for Markham was complaining about the land transfer tax. I can only remind the honourable member that in his own region of York, Durham and Peel, he was asking me why, if you try to match 1984 and 1988, the land transfer tax has increased—tripled, quadrupled. The answer is very simple. The answer is that in Markham right now, or in Durham, more and more homes of high price and high quality, \$300,000, \$350,000 and \$400,000, are being built. He is criticizing us for raising more taxes. It is because of the high cost of homes in his own riding. Also, the member is against building affordable housing, especially in Markham. Maybe if the member would allow us to build affordable housing in his riding, we would collect less in land transfer tax.

The member for Markham asked whether we were on target with our collection of \$15 billion for 1988-89. I can tell him that the answer is yes, but the Treasurer will be releasing his quarterly report tomorrow. I am sure the member will be pleasantly pleased that we are on target.

The member for Beaches-Woodbine asked me a very important question on women's employment equity, formerly affirmative action. I am pleased to report that the number of women, francophones, persons of visible minorities, racial minorities in the workforce of my ministry has increased. Since the inception of the affirma-

tive action program for women in 1974-75, the number of women employed by my ministry has increased from 1,347 to 1,706, or a 26.7 per cent increase. As a result, women represent 43.6 per cent of the ministry's workforce, compared to 34.2 per cent in 1974-75. A 43.6 per cent representation in my ministry exceeds the government's objective of having 30 per cent representation by the year 2000. I am very pleased with this record, and we will continue to improve this program.

This is it for the time being, Mr. Chairman.

1650

Ms. Bryden: The minister has touched on a good number of the points that I raised, but I find he is somewhat lacking in specifics.

For instance, on the question of women's participation in the ministry, I did ask for figures on how many women are in what might be called the top administrative positions or in management positions, which would be heads of departments or senior positions within various branches. If he could get us some figures on that, it might indicate whether there has been an improvement in women's participation at the higher levels, and that is an important thing to look at, whether we are increasing the opportunities for women to make the higher salaries. He also did not give us the figures on the average earnings of men and women in the ministry. That is still to come, I hope.

On the market value question, in a *Globe and Mail* article on October 26, 1988, the story says that the Ministry of Revenue may not be able to comply with an order to release the 1984 market value of all properties in Metropolitan Toronto within 20 days, which is what the freedom-of-information administrators had called for after the ministry had refused to release the material. An order has been issued by the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner, Sidney Linden, to make public the market value assessment on a property-by-property basis within 20 days.

If the ministry finds it impossible to provide that material within 20 days, I think it is a very great setback to the debate on what kind of assessment system we should have in Metropolitan Toronto, and I am very disappointed by the minister in his comments on page 22: "And finally, I am hopeful that, after the November elections, the new Metropolitan Toronto council will turn to the question of reassessment as a means of replacing Metro's seriously flawed and antiquated property tax base."

It looks as though he has opted entirely for Metropolitan Toronto council's making the decision. It looks as though he has backed away from his statement that no municipality will be forced to put in any market value or other reform of its assessment except by its individual desire. The minister, in a way, has not clarified what he expects in Metropolitan Toronto, except that he apparently hopes the Metro council will be given the power to impose on the other municipalities what it wants.

I think this is completely contrary to the principles of sections 63 and 70. That tax reform was put into effect so that the municipalities could choose. He has reiterated many times that it is a voluntary program. For him to come down in his statement to the House today and last week to saying that he is going to work only with Metropolitan Toronto indicates that he is abandoning the voluntary program.

Also, if he is not able to comply with the order of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, how can he expect any action and any reasonable discussion of the issue in the whole metropolitan area without the facts? What is he going to do about complying with that order?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I think this ministry has never refused to release the information on individual properties. Even before the freedom-of-information guidelines, this ministry was able and willing and did so regularly. Even in our assessment offices or bureaus right across this province, at our 31 assessment offices, we have released this information willingly.

To say that we have refused to release this information, I think, is not totally true. I would like to remind the honourable member that we have never turned down the commissioner's order or the commissioner's office. Yes, we will comply with the order of the commissioner. What we did say is that the order says we have to provide all of this information within 20 days. We have said that we think it is physically impossible to do so, and we are trying to work out some arrangements with the office of the commissioner and we will provide the four appellants with the information needed.

I would like to remind the honourable member that the four appellants are not all on side. For instance, one or two appellants would like the Metro figures, while another one is asking for the Scarborough figures and the other one is asking for the Toronto figures. So it is very difficult at the present time to comply fully with the order of the commissioner, but I can guarantee the member that we intend to do so. We are

rectifying these unresolved questions at the present time.

We will release this information and we are pleased to release it, because once and for all people in Metro will realize how important it is that we go on with reassessment. I do not think it is fair for people to subsidize their neighbours. I think reassessment is needed. Assessment should reflect equity in paying taxes. I know that municipal school taxes are a burden on every citizen of this province, but I think that sections 63 and 70 have resulted in finding a more equitable way of paying taxes. I will encourage not only Metro but all of the remaining municipalities in this province to secure section 63 or section 70.

I want to underline the fact that this ministry has never refused to provide information to individual home owners or to comply with an order of the commissioner. I want to make it very clear that this ministry will provide all of this information as soon as the commissioner provides us with more information on the type, on what format the information should go out in—tapes, hard cover, discs; there are a number of ways this information can go out—and as soon as we rectify this, as soon as we find out from the commissioner, we will comply.

Also, the member wanted to know about the wage gap between men and women. I am pleased to say that—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. A point of clarification? You have a question?

Mr. Sterling: Yes. The minister is leaving us with the impression that there was not a refusal on the part of the ministry to provide these property tax figures when, in fact, his ministry has refused in the past to release these property tax figures, and it is only as a result of the information commissioner's ordering him to produce these tax figures that he has produced them.

1700

I refer to an article in the Toronto Star, February 16, 1988: "The province has turned down a request by a Scarborough alderman for secret figures on the effects of property tax reform. Information about the effects on individual properties may lead to home owners demanding their taxes be reduced, and if the data is released it should be done so by municipalities, not the province, a Ministry of Revenue spokesman said yesterday."

It was as a result of the refusal on the part of this ministry to provide this information on a number of occasions over the past two and three

years that finally somebody went to the information commissioner and said, "This isn't fair."

The government is trying to hide information which was collected by the taxpayers paying for it. Taxpayers in this province paid for the collection of this information, and then somebody went to the information commissioner and said, "We are entitled to this information." The ministry still refused to bring forward that information. Finally, the information commissioner said, "You must." Even then, there was a hesitation on the part of the ministry to comply with that order. They finally decided they would not appeal the information commissioner's order.

I think it is a far cry from saying, as this minister now puts before the Legislature, that they were willing to supply this information, that they want to be open about it and that now they think every property owner should know what the next property owner's taxes are when, in fact, that is 180 degrees from where they were in February 1988, only eight months ago. I just wanted a point of clarification on that.

Mr. Chairman: The minister may respond.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I just want to remind the—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What about his colleague there?

Mr. Chairman: We will let the minister respond, and then the member for—

Mr. Polsinelli: Mr. Chairman, if I could, it is tied in to the same issue.

Mr. Chairman: I see. Go ahead.

Mr. Polsinelli: Mr. Chairman, thank you for your indulgence in this matter. It is tied in to the same issue. I thought the minister, in responding to the question from the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), perhaps could indicate to the House the time he decided to release the information on a home-by-home basis, because I know that that has been around for a while. Perhaps he could comment also on the 1980 market value impact study that was commissioned by the former Conservative government—I believe we released that study about five years after it was commissioned—and what type of items that covered.

More important, the minister could talk about the volume of paperwork involved in releasing the information his ministry has now agreed to release. My understanding is that we have around two million individuals in Metropolitan Toronto. If we are talking about the number of households in Metropolitan Toronto, I am sure we are talking

about hundreds of thousands of households that this study is going to affect, that this information is going to cover. Perhaps he could talk about the amount of paper it is going to require, whether the ministry at this point is considering perhaps publishing some type of report in a book form; what the cost of this book, if it is going to be producing it in that form, is going to be; and who is going to absorb the cost of releasing this information.

I thank the Chairman again for his indulgence in allowing me to pose the question to the minister.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I want to thank my honourable friend for reminding me. Where is the member from?

Mr. Faubert: Yorkview.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Yorkview, yes. Since day one, the honourable member has been after the former Minister of Revenue, and now myself, to try to resolve the situation in Metro, and I want to thank him for his interest. I would like to remind him that this ministry has spent close to \$20 million or \$22 million on the Metro assessments since 1982.

I want to remind the member for Carleton, who has missed most of this conversation, that he has missed some very good estimates from the Ministry of Revenue; now he comes in and he wants to go back and ask questions that were previously answered in this House. But I want to remind the member for Carleton that under his administration, all of this information was not available, and it is only in the past three or three and a half years, and especially with the freedom-of-information legislation, that we can assist municipal taxpayers right across this province with how their assessment is done.

Again, we will comply with the commissioner's request or order without any hesitation, and nobody has ever been turned down.

Mr. Sterling: David McFadden was turned down; the previous member for Eglinton was turned down. He asked for that information two years ago. He was turned down.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: That was before the legislation was passed and we were respecting the former legislation introduced by the former government. That is why he did not receive it. Now it is an open government, and we will provide any member with all the information.

In talking about the volume of paper, imagine just paper costs, just for the city of Scarborough, for instance. We will have to provide information on 116,000 properties. At 25 lines per page, that

is 4,673 pages. Imagine what the cost will be, and that is only for Scarborough. I could go on. For Metro, it would be 21,000 pages.

This is why we are working very closely with the commissioner, and I want to reiterate my original comments that we will comply with the order of the commissioner.

If I can go back to the member for Beaches-Woodbine on women's issues—

Ms. Bryden: I have a supplementary on the minister's explanation about the request for the information. Freedom of information always costs money—that is one thing you have to recognize—but in the process of getting freedom of information, a great many facts have come out to electorates across the world where they do have such laws.

The minister says he has never refused, or has not refused lately, to give data. Well, here is a clipping from the Toronto Star of September 8, 1988, where it says:

"Fred Jones, freedom-of-information and privacy act co-ordinator for the Minister of Revenue, said giving out such information"—that is, the market value estimates in this study—"would reveal a property owner's assets and thus be an invasion of privacy.

"The ministry is obliged to not disclose personal information to third parties," he said. "We feel bound by law not to do so."

At that time, he was refusing to give out the information on the grounds that it was an invasion of privacy, but as the commissioner said, you cannot judge the effect of the proposal on the properties involved in the six municipalities without complete information for all six municipalities, because they are all affected in different ways. Some would have large increases; some would have large decreases.

I think the minister is still not being completely frank with us when he says that he has never refused or has not recently refused to give out this data. His own co-ordination officer refused it back in September 1988. That is not very far back.

1710

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I want to remind the member that this is one of the reasons we needed to test the legislation. Again, I want to remind the member that I can give her a number of requests that we have had—people requesting information. Naturally, we wanted to charge them for the information, but nobody was turned down for the simple reason that with the new freedom of information legislation, it had to be tested,

because this was the government's approach to releasing this information.

It has been resolved now that the commissioner is saying, "Release the information." Again, we will release the information. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to continue to inform the member for Beaches-Woodbine about the activities on affirmative action or employment equity in my ministry. I will provide her with a very short note.

Since 1974-75, the ministry has achieved a seven per cent reduction in the wage gap between men and women. Women's average earnings now equal 71 per cent of men's average earnings. A man's average salary is \$37,000 compared to a woman's average salary of \$26,000. So we are moving. We want to close that gap as soon as is humanly possible, but I am very proud that my ministry has increased the number of women executives from 6.7 per cent to 11.1 per cent. I think we have a great record.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Just an aside, when the minister mentioned charging a fee for freedom of information, is eight per cent sales tax added to that?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I am sorry?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I was saying that when the ministry charges a fee for freedom of information, does it add on the eight per cent sales tax?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: It is for a good cause. I do not know why we would eliminate the eight per cent.

I want to remind the member to wait until his cousins in Ottawa go ahead with the last leg of tax reform. How much is it going to cost taxpayers in this province?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On a serious matter, I would like to just ask about the farm tax credit program and the senior citizens' property tax rebate.

It is very confusing for many seniors living on farms because the two programs quite often overlap and conflict. There is a problem relating to the farm tax credit program that the ministry assesses acre land and the residents. Farm land is not taxable. But sometimes the farmer has a great deal of difficulty in breaking the assessment tax notice down into the proper proportions.

I do understand some of the clerk's system, but could we not design a better mechanism? The minister mentioned earlier that he is always trying to improve the service. Would there not be a simpler way of determining exactly what the farmer would owe on the house and one acre of

land and make it easier so that they do understand?

Then we come to the second problem when it is seniors living on that land and they receive the property tax credit. It becomes really complicated for many of them, and it is my feeling that many of our farmers are missing out on their farm tax credits because they are not knowledgeable. I have a couple of smaller questions, but I would like the minister to address that one now.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I think the member for Wellington is absolutely right. I think it is a little confusing, but I would like to remind him that in the last three years we have tried to simplify the program and maybe we should be accused or are accused of confusing farmers.

Now that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is responsible for part of the program, the Ministry of Revenue is responsible for another part of the program and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is responsible for another part of the program, the member is absolutely right, but I want to remind him that having recognized this, we have sent out assessors to help farmers fill out their applications, and I can tell the member that it has been working. Our assessors are dedicated people. We want to make sure that our farmers receive all the right information, and we want to send out a cheque as soon as possible.

I want to remind the member that last year our assessors did help 5,000 farmers fill out their applications. We recognize that the program is not perfect, but we will continue to monitor the program and improve it. We do not want any farmer or any municipal or school taxpayer in this province to miss out on this great program.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I was not being critical of the process as much as I was trying to be of some assistance in suggesting that maybe a simpler procedure could be developed so that we would not have to send out assessors to meet with 5,000 farmers. Surely it would be more costly to do that than to design a simpler method.

Just the other day, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) introduced a new program for wetlands that would make those lands tax-free as well. We will have to come up with some determination of how to arrive at what is wetland. I can think in terms of having to become extremely technical, having surveyors, engineers and people making extremely complicated guesses on whether lands do fall under the assessment.

With four ministries involved, would it not make sense to work on a program, even if it takes a period of time, to see if one ministry—such as

the Ministry of Revenue—could not assume the responsibility of co-ordinating the three programs and develop a very simple, straightforward means of ensuring that people such as farmers, seniors and people who have wetlands could determine if indeed they did qualify—and without a lot of paperwork, to make it simpler for them and make sure that they do receive the credits that are due to them and to make it simpler for the government?

Certainly I do not think the minister wants to continue sending assessors out every year. I am simply suggesting in the spirit of co-operation that if we could work together to try to determine some program, it would have to be more meaningful.

I might also suggest that one of the problems is sometimes the publications that are sent out on these programs are extremely complicated and go into too much detail. If the minister can keep it simple, it is much better.

I have two other brief questions.

1720

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: As I pointed out to the honourable member, yes, I appreciate his comments and his sincerity in improving these services to seniors and farmers, and I am constantly reminded by the Treasurer of this great province to look not only at improving these programs but at the delivery, the cost of these programs.

I want, again, to thank the member for his comments. They are well appreciated. We will continue to improve these programs and to provide more programs and of better quality, so I want to thank him for his comments.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have just a couple of other points. One concern I have is tax on tax, as exemplified by the Bell Canada telephone bills where there is provincial tax on federal tax. I hope that at some point in time the Treasurer will accept the fact that it just does not seem right.

The other point I would like to raise is that, on the retail sales tax, the government has increased it from seven per cent to eight per cent. We depend on the retail merchants and other business people to collect this tax. It is a burden on them. They certainly do not want that responsibility, but they are faced with it and there is not much else we can do if we want to retain a sales tax. There is one thing that we can do: Certainly we should increase their remuneration for collecting the tax.

I think it certainly should be reviewed on an ongoing basis. For some of the larger stores that have the mechanism in place, it is not a burden,

but it certainly is for the very small, independent retail business. On their behalf, I would like to appeal to the minister to give consideration to giving them a little more for the burden that they are called upon by the minister and the Treasurer to collect tax on their behalf.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Again, I appreciate the member's comments. He makes some very, very good points. At the same time, with regard to increasing or raising the retail sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent, we did it for a number of reasons. We had to do it. I explained to members a short while ago how we improved the quality of the health care services in this province; also our social services programs and our education and transportation.

Mr. Sterling: An extra billion bucks and you blew it all.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I realize that increasing the retail sales tax to eight per cent was not done with great joy by this government, but I think the extra one per cent is a good investment in this province, and we will continue to improve the high quality of programs being delivered by this government.

I would like to remind the member for Wellington, who talked about the tax on telephone bills which did not appear before, that in 1987 the federal government introduced a new tax at the rate of 10 per cent on telecommunication services such as long-distance telephone charges and cellular telephone services, telegrams, you name it. Unlike the federal tax imposed on the provider of other telecommunication services such as cable television, this new federal tax is imposed on the user of the service. Our definition of a fair value did not include this new type of federal tax, and effective May 2, 1988, our budget introduced a new clause of the retail sales tax. This clause was necessary in order to capture the new federal sales tax in the fair value base, upon which provincial sales tax is calculated. It is consistent with our treatment of other federal excise tax.

I do not think the federal government likes it, and the provincial governments do not like increasing taxes, but we were faced with a no-win situation. I am sure the taxpayers of this province will certainly appreciate the improvements in the high quality of the delivery of our services.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The minister answered part of the question, but he did not answer the one I really wanted him to answer, that is, on paying the retail merchants a little more for collecting tax. When I made reference to the increase of 78

per cent, the government said it needed the money to pay its added expenses.

I am appealing to the minister to give the same consideration to the merchants. They have increased costs every year. Surely the minister can accept the fact that since the government has increased costs and they have increased costs, he could share a little more with them. It has nothing to do with the one per cent increase, just basically the amount of money they have been paid in the past to collect the government's tax. Surely the minister could give consideration to giving them slightly more remuneration.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I will certainly pass on the information to my good friend the Treasurer. With his generosity, I am sure he will be back in the House very shortly and provide the member with a good answer.

I would like to remind the honourable member that his government at one time initiated the commission or the remuneration given to tax collectors and abolished it and later on came back with it. We do not intend to abolish this remuneration to our tax collectors, and if we can improve it, we will do so.

Miss Martel: Oh, no.

Mr. Mahoney: Oh no, yes. I find it interesting in this debate—particularly with the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) waving over there, doing a poor impersonation of the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz)—that we have three members from Sudbury in the Legislature while this debate is going on. The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) was giving the minister a hard time. I did not hear any one of the three thanking the minister for the \$7 million in equalization grants that went to the region of Sudbury under section 63, recognizing the fact that it was a region-wide reassessment and that there were severe financial difficulties for many of those communities. I did not hear the member mentioning that, but perhaps when he or the member for Sudbury East get an opportunity, they will stand up and pay due homage to the government in respect of that very generous assistance.

The member for Markham, who unfortunately—or fortunately, depending on your perspective—is not here at the moment, made a comment earlier about how section 63 reassessment is not working in the city of Mississauga. I would like to share a little bit of information for his benefit and for the rest of those who might be interested.

When we went through section 63 in the city of Mississauga, I happened to be on council at the

time and in fact was one of the people who voted in favour of requesting the government to implement section 63. The reason was very simple. The reason was that we were provided with information not on specific taxes on specific properties, but rather with information that indicated that over 60 per cent of our ratepayers were and had been for many years—since 1969—paying substantially more than their fair share and 40 per cent were paying, in many cases, substantially less.

I would like to give one brief example to illustrate the value of section 63. I do not know how, in good conscience, Metro can avoid telling its people, the ones who are paying more than they should be paying, that it is not going to adjust the bill. I do not know how it is getting away with it. I can only assume that the taxpayers in Metro are not aware that the vast majority of them are paying more than their fair share and that this information is not being spread out to them by their municipal council. I can only assume that to be the case.

1730

The reality was, to give one example, we had one home, a lot with an 80-foot frontage by about 200 feet deep. It was a beautiful bungalow on a beautiful treed lot. They were paying taxes in the neighbourhood of \$900 a year. Within less than one mile of that home, there would be a semidetached home on a 32-foot lot, without a tree in sight, paying \$1,400 a year in taxes.

Mr. Dietsch: How much?

Mr. Mahoney: It was \$1,400, so you can imagine how the people in the semidetached home felt when they looked at their tax bill. If they drove over to the house on the 80-foot lot, which was worth probably three or four times the amount of money that the other one was worth, you can imagine how they felt or would have felt if they had known that indeed they were paying \$500 a year more in taxes. I ask anyone to tell me that is fair, that is equitable, that is anything anyone can understand.

As a result of being given that information, city council really had no option. Well, I guess we did. We could have said to the ratepayers who are paying more than their fair share: "Sorry, folks. We're going to maintain the status quo, we're going to stick our head in the sand and we're not going to adjust your tax bill. You're paying more than you should, but that's too bad."

Sure there were some difficult times, but for the member for Markham to say it has not worked in the city of Mississauga is patently untrue; it is not based on fact. While there are people who

have had some difficulties, it has been based on a much more fair and equitable system.

I would like to ask the minister if he has available to him the information on what the percentages would be in Metro. For example, do we know what percentage of Metro ratepayers would in fact get a decrease in their taxes under section 63 and what percentage would get an increase?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I would like to provide very accurate figures to the member for Mississauga West, but at the present time, due to the fact that, as I mentioned a little earlier, we will be providing Metro and other municipalities with the information, I am not in a position to provide him with accurate figures, but I am sure the member for Mississauga West and others in this assembly know that in Metro more people will certainly benefit from a tax decrease.

There have been a number of studies done over the past five years. They do vary. If you look at the latest Metro study, 38 per cent would receive an increase in taxes and 62 per cent would receive a decrease in municipal taxes. Other impact studies have shown it may be the opposite. It is very difficult, but at the present time, if you want to take the latest Metro figures, 62 per cent would receive a decrease and 38 per cent would receive an increase in municipal taxes.

Ms. Bryden: I certainly concur with the comments of the member for Wellington about the retail sales tax people deserving an increase. I think customer service is important in that field, because many of them work very hard to collect the taxes for the government.

The question I have now that I want to put forward is, the ministry has added two new programs to its activities, namely, the Ontario home ownership savings plan and the employee share ownership plan. In the discussion of these bills, certainly we came to the conclusion that they were two of the most useless pieces of legislation that have ever been put in, and yet the minister now tells us that they are going to require a substantial building up of a bureaucracy to administer them. I would like to know how many staff have been hired for that bureaucracy and the estimated cost on an annual basis of operating these two plans.

The Ontario home ownership savings plan will not benefit anybody in the city of Toronto with the current house prices, as far as I can see, and probably in a lot of other major areas. It was simply to implement an election promise to resurrect a program that had proved very deficient at the federal level and had been abused

greatly by people who manipulated the tax system. The employee share ownership plan is probably not going to contribute any great increase in stock ownership or in development capital which is needed here. Yet both these programs are going to require new bureaucracies.

If the minister does not necessarily have the figures at his fingertips, I would like to know and get a report some time of how many people have applied for OHOSP and from which municipalities, because, as I say, I do not think it will benefit anybody in Toronto, and how many companies and employees' groups have applied for ESOP and what the estimated costs of administering this are.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: I would like to give the member very precise numbers, and we do not have them. We will provide her with accurate figures as soon as possible. Maybe tomorrow I can provide her with these figures.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, as I really did not get an answer, could I have one more short question?

Mr. Chairman: Of course.

Ms. Bryden: The member for Wellington did raise the question of the tax on a tax on the telephone bills. Certainly that was a great shock to many people, that they had to pay a new tax at the federal level and then a provincial tax on top of that. Does this reflect the coming possibility of an integrated sales tax at both the federal and provincial levels? When the Treasurer was asked last week about his attitude to that, he said he was still looking into it and that he had not rejected the idea altogether. Yet we can see from the reaction to the tax on tax on telephone bills that the public is not very receptive to the idea of the two governments having a turnover tax that goes on at every level of a transaction. This is sort of the forecast of it.

Does the minister support the Treasurer's view that he should still be studying the possibility of a joint federal-provincial sales tax that would go on every transaction? Has he any staff studying this tax and how it would be administered, or is he prepared to recognize that if it comes in, according to the studies by the Treasurer which were released in the paper, it will cost the people of Ontario about \$14 billion in extra taxes?

Is he prepared to look at that kind of integration of sales taxes which are very regressive and which should be replaced by more progressive taxes rather than be a substitute for increases in income and corporation tax?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: I think the member has pointed out very accurately that the Treasurer had responded to that question some time ago or a few days ago. I am, as the member for Markham described, the bad tax collector and I do not think it would be wise on my part to stand up and tell the member for Beaches-Woodbine exactly what I think of these double taxes. I think the Treasurer assured us that he was looking into the federal-provincial situation, and I am sure that very shortly the Treasurer will provide her with a full and complete answer.

1740

Mr. Sterling: I have a couple of brief questions. Is the minister responsible for the collection of land transfer tax?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The answer is yes.

Mr. Sterling: Could the minister please tell me what it would cost me, as a young person trying to acquire a home, in land transfer tax if I bought a home for \$100,000 on June 26, 1985, and what it costs in land transfer tax today for my buying that same home?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: If it is the same value, the land transfer tax will be the same. But what is happening—and I think I have responded to that question, which was asked by the member for Markham—is that homes for which probably you were paying \$100,000 in 1984 or 1983 are now costing consumers \$300,000. The tax percentage has not changed, but the price of homes has increased tremendously. That is how you calculate land transfer tax; it is on the cost of the home. The percentage has not changed. Our policy has not changed in the last few years.

Mr. Sterling: I am not about to challenge the minister, because I do not have all the facts in front of me, but I would ask the minister to check with regard to whether there has been an increase in the land transfer tax, because I believe there was an increase in the land transfer tax two budgets ago. That is why I asked him.

Not only would there be an increase in the land transfer tax for a young couple trying to get their first home because of the increase in the cost of the home, there would also be an increase because the amount of tax has increased as well.

Not only has this government increased the costs through land transfer tax, but it has also increased the cost of the home through the increase of the retail sales tax. If you bought a window for your home, it used to cost you the price of the window plus seven per cent. Now, it costs you the price of the window plus eight per cent. You have not only an increase in the retail

sales tax, but you have an increase in the land transfer tax because the cost of that window has gone up, as has the cost of every building material that has gone in there.

The minister referred to a tax on a tax. Effectively, that is what land transfer tax is. It is a tax on a tax, because when the government goes from seven per cent to eight per cent in terms of the retail tax, it shoves up the value of the home and it collects twice, because the land transfer tax increases as well.

I would ask the minister to provide me in writing whether or not there has been an increase in the value, from June 26, 1985, until today, on a \$100,000 home.

The other thing I would like to ask the minister is this: His ministry was very well known through the present deputy, who has been the Deputy Minister of Revenue for some period of time. He was known as being very progressive in regulatory reform. I would just like to ask the minister what he has done in that regard recently.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I did say that in the last few years the land transfer tax has not changed. In 1986, a tax of one half of one per cent was imposed on the excessive taxable value of a single-family residence that was over \$250,000, but I will provide the member with more accurate figures, or dollars and cents, on what the total cost is. But it was, in 1986, one half of one per cent over \$250,000.

I think our deputy minister is known not only to this government but to every member of this House as a very progressive deputy minister. I am very pleased to have the experience of working with him. I would like to remind the member for Carleton that this deputy minister is for ever looking at more innovative, more imaginative ways of improving the productivity and the efficiency of my ministry. I think the deputy minister and the ministry have proven themselves in the last 10 years.

In my opening remarks, I pointed out that with our new computer systems, great savings will be due to this government. This is all due to our innovative approach and our improved productivity in the Ministry of Revenue. I am very pleased to say that we will continue. This is a commitment. This is the sort of thing that we talk about every day in my briefings: how we can improve the productivity and the efficiency of the ministry?

Mr. Sterling: Perhaps if I could expand just briefly with regard to regulatory reform, regulatory reform not only includes saving of money as a result of changing your system, it also results in benefits for the public. That is why we are all in government.

Some time ago, we in the former government had the necessity of all ministries reporting on at least an annual basis—it might have even been a quarterly basis at one point in time—what steps each ministry was taking to reform its processes, to look at what it was doing and make certain that it was not asking small businessmen to fill out forms which were unnecessary and that it was not asking old age pensioners to fill out forms which they could not understand, as my friend the member for Wellington pointed out before.

In other words, it forced the government to look at itself in an introspective way to make certain that there was a continuing look at what the ministries were doing.

I would ask the minister to provide me in writing, because we are getting near the end of the day and near the end of his estimates, with the steps which his ministry has taken over the last year in terms of regulatory reform and whether or not it has got rid of any unnecessary paper in the last year or the last three years, because we have not heard anything from this government on that part, either from his ministry or other ministries.

I ask the minister because, in the former government, his deputy minister had probably one of the best reputations in terms of tackling that particular matter. I would say before I sit down that our caucus is ready for the votes on the estimates at this time.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I would like to point out to the member for Carleton that in my estimates statement, on page 45, I do talk about improved services and regulatory reform, but I will provide him with more information in written form.

Mr. Sterling: In response, I did not stay awake for page 45. I am sorry I missed that.

Vote 3201 agreed to.

Votes 3202 and 3203, inclusive, agreed to.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

The House adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orile L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
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 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 97

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, November 1, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 1, 1988

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayers.

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the memorandum of understanding transferring service responsibilities for the Legislature from the Ministry of Government Services to the Office of the Assembly.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

EPILEPSY MONTH

Mr. Laughren: November is Epilepsy Month in Canada. Two per cent of Canadians have epilepsy. I was one of that two per cent, but I am also one of those fortunate ones who are no longer afflicted. Epilepsy is more common than diabetes, cystic fibrosis or multiple sclerosis. Epilepsy is not a disease and it is not contagious. It is a disorder of the brain caused by a temporary generation of excess electrochemical energy inside the brain cells.

There is no single cause of epilepsy. Epilepsy can be caused by a number of events, such as birth trauma or severe head injury, or it can arise without being triggered by any event. Epilepsy is an episodic disability. For most people with the disorder, seizures are brief and infrequent. Between seizures, most people with epilepsy are perfectly normal and healthy. There are different kinds of epilepsy, ranging from convulsive seizures to brief periods where the person loses consciousness and appears to daydream.

For the vast majority of people with epilepsy, medication can control their seizures. Because most people with epilepsy can control their seizures with medication, it is people's reaction to epilepsy, not epilepsy itself, that causes the real disability. More than any other disorder, epilepsy has been surrounded by misunderstanding, prejudice and fear, attitudes that may block the hopes and aspirations of more than 400,000 Canadians who are afflicted with epilepsy.

November is Epilepsy Month, during which a massive public education campaign will be conducted to combat such a misunderstanding.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Villeneuve: Today's meeting of the anti-free-trade tag team here at Queen's Park will likely knock a few more cents off the Canadian dollar, but obviously they like to see the Canadian dollar dropping. It is all part of the Liberal strategy to improve our trade position by undermining our standard of living.

A weaker dollar will be the least of our worries should any government in this country be misguided enough to tear up the free trade agreement with the United States. In my view, those who assume we can tear up this agreement with impunity are whistling their way past the graveyard in which they will have buried the prospects for a more prosperous economic future for Canada.

The Ontario government is acting as the assistant grave-digger in this sorry process. Tear up the free trade agreement, and the next thing to be torn up is the auto pact. Tear up the free trade agreement, and invite a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade challenge to our marketing boards. Tear up the free trade agreement, and let our steelworkers live with the consequences of so-called voluntary restraint agreements. That is the future the Ontario Liberal trade undertakers offer to this province.

What is their response? "Trust us. Everything will be okay." Any day now I expect the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to break into a chorus of: "Don't worry. Everything will be okay. And be happy."

SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the Legislature the importance of both the small business sector in Ontario and the role of the small business advocacy section. There are currently over 400,000 small businesses in Ontario and these businesses provide the most dynamic source of job creation. In fact, from 1978 to 1985, 71 per cent of net new jobs came from new small businesses. It has also been established that 89 per cent of Ontarians believe the prospects for starting a new business are best in Ontario, as compared to other provinces.

The government, in April 1986, announced the creation of an advocate for small business.

This position allows small business a voice in government, giving business owners an open-door policy on issues of concern to them, and acts as a reference point for these issues. Another duty under this position is to act as chair for the committee of parliamentary assistants for small business, to provide a co-ordinated approach for it to review existing programs, existing legislation and other acts.

As members are probably all aware, the member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro) was the first advocate for small business. Under his leadership, the committee had many achievements. Two of these: they were the designers of the very successful new ventures program, and initiated and presented the first issue of the annual report on the state of small business.

I would like to acknowledge the major contribution of the member for Guelph. It is a pleasure for me to carry on his work in this area and to work with the small business community in the future.

ALGOMA CENTRAL RAILWAY

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am alarmed and dismayed to learn that the Algoma Central Railway has renewed its intention to sever its rail division from the parent firm. This is a plan to abandon a rail line, which threatens the jobs of workers in Sault Ste. Marie and in the communities along the rail line in the Algoma district. Surely this action is not in the best interests of the communities along the rail line or in the interests of the employees.

As a representative of the community of Sault Ste. Marie and the district of Algoma, I and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) have been successfully fighting this ACR application for nearly two years now. Unfortunately, our federal member in the area has not taken any such action. In particular, the Solicitor General, Mr. Kelleher, has not assisted us in the fight against the ACR.

Here in Ontario, I would like to ask that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) and the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) take a close look at this action, and I request their assistance in filing interventions with the national transportation agency. The Minister of Northern Development should be particularly concerned because this rail line has a terminus in his home town of Hearst.

We should be insisting on public hearings in Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and Hearst so that the best interests of the employees and the communities along that line are upheld in this action.

1340

RECYCLING

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and the rest of his colleagues on the government side of this Legislature. Last week, the minister and his government had an ideal opportunity to show leadership in solving Ontario's growing garbage crisis, but they failed to rise to the challenge. That opportunity to show leadership occurred when the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) introduced Bill 89, which was an act requiring all municipalities to establish garbage recycling programs.

The member for Mississauga South brought in a thoughtful and practical proposal that would have contributed greatly to the solution of Ontario's waste management and landfill dilemma. Granted, this was not the ultimate solution to this problem, but it would have gone a long way towards solving our garbage crisis, and it is certainly more than this government has contributed during its term of office. The minister has closed down 100 sites in Ontario and he has not opened one single new one.

I find it interesting that during the last election campaign, both the minister and his parliamentary assistant indicated their support for a mandatory recycling program in Ontario. Then the parliamentary assistant stood up last week to speak against Bill 89 and the minister voted against it.

The minister's record indicates clearly that there is no leadership coming from this government in solving the garbage crisis and other problems that are confronting the people of Ontario. The minister had a chance to say yes and he decided to say no to mandatory recycling.

STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Miller: For the information of the members of the House, I am pleased to report that the national tripartite stabilization committees have recently approved third-quarter 1988 stabilization payments.

Tripartite stabilization, as my honourable colleagues will know, is a voluntary program contributed to weekly by producers and both the federal and provincial governments under a 10-year agreement signed in 1986. A stabilization payment is triggered when the national average market price drops below the support price. The support price provides a floor for producers under the tripartite agreement.

The official payment figures for the third quarter of 1988 include a total of \$19 million for the 5,200 Ontario pork producers enrolled in the program. In addition, a total payment of \$8 million was paid to the 2,000 Ontario beef producers enrolled in the program. Enrolled Ontario lamb producers will be receiving \$6.83 a head. These payments will provide invaluable assistance to livestock producers who are currently experiencing extremely poor market conditions.

In addition, enrolled Ontario apple growers will receive a \$5-million payment for the 1987 crop.

PRAYERS IN LEGISLATURE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Since the court ruling on the Lord's Prayer in the schools has been brought down, I have continually noticed in this House that our own procedures for opening ceremonies are a little dated and perhaps anachronistic.

Speaking on behalf of a minority of people within this House, I wonder if it might not be time for us to review our own opening ceremonies to make them a little more sensitive to the various views of the minorities within this province for whom the Lord's Prayer has no particular significance or is difficult for them to have to go through every day without some recognition of their own traditions.

Mr. Speaker: The suggestion will be taken into consideration.

USE OF CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I bring to your attention an advertisement in the Cornwall Standard-Freeholder by the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary). I bring a number of items to your attention, and surely, they should all be looked at.

This is advertising by the member for Cornwall to come out and join with him and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) for a reception and dinner at \$50 per person. It is a fund-raiser for the Liberal Party and the big phone number at the bottom is the constituency office phone number.

First, it begs the question why a constituency office is being used to raise funds for the Liberal Party. Second, I think perhaps who paid for the advertisement should be looked at, whether that is being paid for by the assembly as well. Third, perhaps in your deliberations direction should be given to senior members of the Liberal Party about the new rookies, some of whom, if they are here for 20 years, will not be able to figure out what you can do and cannot do. Perhaps the

Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the House leader and those senior members ought to be informing members of the Liberal Party, newly elected ones particularly, just exactly what constituency offices are for. I will provide this to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: On the point of order, I will certainly have a look at it and make certain it is placed on the agenda of the Board of Internal Economy.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Hon. Mr. Ward: In the past year, it has been my privilege to visit classes for deaf children. I have been inspired and gratified by these visits, as I have watched the enthusiasm and effort of students and staff in these very special facilities.

To ensure that Ontario continues to meet their needs, I believe it is essential to carefully examine our delivery of deaf education.

Last spring, many members of this assembly took part in a debate on a private resolution put forward by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), and I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by all members in that discussion.

Today, I am pleased to announce that my ministry is undertaking a review of programs for hearing-impaired students, covering the three schools operated by the ministry as well as a representative sample of the programs offered by individual school boards throughout Ontario. It will include public and separate boards as well as English- and French-language programs.

It will be carried out in two phases. First, an internal review committee composed of educators of the deaf from boards and from our provincial schools will be established immediately. In addition, an external, independent review will be carried out by experts on deaf education and other educators not employed in our jurisdictions.

Our external review team has been selected to ensure a varied background in deaf education and offers a wealth of knowledge and experience. Its members will include: Dr. Gary Bunch, associate professor in the faculty of education at York University; Dr. Robert Davila, vice-president of precollege programs at Gaullaudet University, Washington, DC; Joseph McLaughlin, principal of the Alberta School for the Deaf; Dr. Carol Musselman, associate professor in the department of special education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and Donald Rutledge,

recently retired associate director of the Toronto Board of Education.

One or two additional members will be added to the external review team in the near future. The external review will be conducted in April and May 1989. The final report, with recommendations, will be completed next summer.

To assist our external review, we will commission a research project designed to compile and summarize the most recent findings in deaf education.

In addition, I am pleased to announce today the creation of an advisory group comprised of representatives from groups within the deaf community and the deaf education community. This group will be asked to provide ideas to the internal and external review teams. Information gathered by the two reviews will also be shared with the advisory group, which will be kept fully informed throughout the review process.

Through this co-operative effort, we will draw together in partnership a wide spectrum of those involved in the delivery of deaf education.

These are the areas upon which we are asking our reviews to focus: the appropriateness of identification, placement and review procedures for hearing-impaired children, including an assessment of the availability of various types of programs in different parts of the province; the levels of academic competence achieved by students of programs for the hearing-impaired; the training and certification of teachers for the deaf and identification of any existing barriers to the employment of teachers who are deaf; the policy development process for hearing-impaired programs, including the role of advisory committees; the appropriateness of communication systems employed and taught in programs for the hearing-impaired; opportunities and support mechanisms for post-secondary education for the hearing-impaired in Ontario; the provision of preschool and parent and family services; the use of interpreters, and the provision of programs and services for French-language students.

I hope and expect that our review and advisory committees will provide significant and useful analysis and recommendations within all of these critical areas. It is my intention to use the findings for a single, cohesive purpose: to improve deaf education in Ontario and maintain our leadership in providing the best possible facilities and programs for hearing-impaired children.

1350

ACID RAIN

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The province of Ontario is today petitioning the United States Court of Appeals to order the US Environmental Protection Agency to enforce its laws to prevent acid rain.

I have taken this action because the US EPA failed to respond satisfactorily to a petition we filed last April directly requesting that the agency begin legal procedures necessary to force American acid rain polluters to clean up.

We had asked the EPA officially to publish the findings of its former administrator, Douglas Costle, that acid rain generated in the US endangers the health and welfare of Canadians and that the US government has been granted the reciprocal right to require control of acid rain from Canadian sources.

The US Clean Air Act requires the EPA to act on such findings. If the Costle findings are published, the EPA would be forced to act to require additional pollution controls on large coal-fired plants, especially in the midwestern states, which create the acid rain that has proved so destructive in Ontario and Quebec.

Unfortunately, as I told the Legislature two weeks ago, the US EPA has fallen back on its time-worn cliché that more information is needed. In fact, the agency intends to wait for a report expected in 1990 before it will even consider action.

I find this position to be unacceptable. The devastating effects of acid rain have been predicted by sophisticated air pollution modelling and verified by rigorous testing. Our scientists have conclusively demonstrated that sulphur dioxide emissions from smokestacks in the Ohio Valley and adjacent states fall as acid rain upon Ontario's lakes, forests, streams and cities.

We cannot afford to hold our breath waiting for the US Environmental Protection Agency to wake up and smell the sulphur. In our petition we have stated our position that the EPA's response, forwarded to us on October 14, is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and otherwise not in accordance with American laws. The petition therefore requests that the court order EPA administrator Lee Thomas to institute rulemaking proceedings under section 115 of the Clean Air Act and take the actions we requested in April.

We have also included an alternative request in the case that the EPA's response of October 14 is not deemed a final action denying our April petition. The Clean Air Act gives the court the

authority to review claims of unreasonably delayed agency action under that act. We therefore have asked the court to issue an order requiring the EPA administrator to respond to our April petition within 60 days.

Certainly both candidates for the US presidency have said that they take acid rain more seriously than President Reagan did in his eight years of inaction. But we cannot be content to take a wait-and-see attitude with the next US administration. I will continue to press our case with the Americans until they finally take action to stop acid rain.

SEMINARS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: It gives me great pleasure to share with my colleagues a special project that the Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs has undertaken to reach out to Ontario's seniors.

My office is currently hosting a series of seminars for seniors on seniors' issues. The theme, "Opportunity is ageless," was suggested by seniors themselves as the theme for our June 1988 Senior Citizens Month. Its message is clear: keep active, stay involved.

The first in the series of regional seminars was held on October 20 in Sault Ste. Marie. On November 29, a seminar will be held in French in Sudbury for francophone seniors. Next spring, five more regional seminars will be held in London, Belleville, Fort Frances, Toronto and, for seniors in eastern Ontario, in Renfrew county. We have chosen some centres that do not frequently host major events because we are reaching out to the grass roots.

These seminars provide seniors with a forum in which they can come together to learn from one another and in which we can learn from them. As one woman told me in Sault Ste. Marie, "When you listen to us, we know you value us."

These seminars are an opportunity to listen to the seniors of Ontario. I would invite all of my colleagues to attend at least one of them.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Just before I call for responses, I would ask all members of the assembly to recognize in the Speaker's gallery a delegation from Jiangsu province, China. There are 10 members of the delegation. The leader of the delegation is the vice-governor of Jiangsu province, Madame Wu Xijun. Please join me in welcoming the delegation.

RESPONSES

ACID RAIN

Mrs. Grier: The action that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has told us about

today is, of course, the action he told us two weeks ago he was going to take and that I assume he will tell us next week he has taken. It is very appropriate. How could any of us disagree with it?

We have, as everybody in this House knows, a complete abdication of responsibility by our federal government in dealing with acid rain, and it is appropriate that the provincial government should do it. It is, however, very easy for this government to take strong, decisive action when dealing with another jurisdiction on a matter that is not completely within our own jurisdiction.

What we on this side look forward to hearing from this minister is strong, decisive action to clean up the Great Lakes, which affect both jurisdictions; his municipal-industrial strategy for abatement is long overdue; to stop lakefilling, which is contaminating those lakes; and to revise and strengthen our own air pollution regulations in this province. We have a government here that has refused mandatory recycling and has a waste management crisis on its hands.

It is very easy to be strong in dealing with the US. We wait to see him be really strong in dealing with our own problems.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is a great day for the deaf and hearing-impaired in Ontario. It is a rare thing that I get up and make a statement commending the government for its action without any equivocation.

In a minor fashion it is also a great day for private members. This being my 10th year in the House, this is the first time that a private member's initiative of mine has been followed up by the government with action. I have had one other great success in having the nuclear-weapons-free zone resolution passed, but as to this date we have not been able to find a meeting ground of the minds to follow that up any further.

The last line of my resolution from May 5 was, "That the Ministry of Education report to the Legislature by November 1, 1988, on these initiatives." My God, I never imagined it would be on time, let alone come through with this kind of review.

There are many people in the gallery today, however, who are the great victors in what has taken place. Sign language is again being used in the Speaker's gallery to explain to those representatives from the deaf and hearing-impaired communities what is taking place today.

As members may recall from that May 5 debate, there was a real litany of problems, of

contradictions in the standards for the education of the deaf and hearing-impaired in the province, and I am delighted that finally a comprehensive review is taking place.

If there is a second really positive result coming out of the May 5 debate, it would be that various groups within that community out there, with varying interests and perspectives, have now come together and had a meeting of their minds and a real capacity to be the kind of advisory group the minister is hoping will come from this process he has announced today. I think that is a major hope for the province.

I am a little concerned about the separate reviews and will talk to the minister later about how they may come together, but I would just like to end by saying that this is a day in which all members in the House can take some pleasure, knowing that, from time to time, our initiatives do bear fruit. This kind of fruit, one hopes, will be a real improvement for the quality of education for the deaf and hearing-impaired in our province.

1400

SEMINARS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Reville: We cannot let the breathtaking initiative announced by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) go by unnoticed. I think it would be wonderful for the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) to have a chance to meet with seniors in eastern Ontario, perhaps at the Wilno church, where they could have some chicken together. "When you listen to us, we know you value us," it says in this release. I expect that the seniors of Ontario will have a great deal to tell this government, and I certainly hope that it takes time to listen.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Mr. B. Rae: On behalf of my party, I just want to express my appreciation, since it was offered only grudgingly and not in the written statement by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), to my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), who I think has done an outstanding job in educating the House and, indeed, in educating all of us on the needs of the deaf, and who has been a very effective advocate on their behalf. On behalf of my caucus and, I am sure, many others, I want to express my appreciation to the member for Scarborough West.

Mr. Jackson: I welcome the statement by the minister and, as well, commend the member for

Scarborough West on the announcement today, which is an important first step in coming to grips with the educational problems experienced by hearing-impaired citizens in Ontario. I say this is a first step because it is my view that there is still much work to be done to ameliorate the current state of affairs as it exists for the deaf as they struggle to further their education under the system that is presently in place for them.

As I stated in this Legislature in May 1988, the plight of the hearing-impaired is something that hits home for me personally because of my growing up with a hearing-impaired uncle, with whom I empathized deeply with respect to his struggle to live as an integrated member of our society. I think I speak for many members of our hearing-impaired community when I say that they are tired of having their educational needs determined incorrectly by those who do not have adequate training to do so, and they are tired of having their education directed in an incomplete manner by individuals who appear to the deaf as all the more insensitive because they do not share the impediment of hearing loss with them.

Hearing loss is not so much an impediment as it is a challenge that the members of our deaf community face bravely every day. Having said this, I therefore hope that the minister has taken time to listen to the concerns over education expressed time and time again by the hearing-impaired. In examining the current system of education for the deaf, I believe it is imperative that the particular and specific needs of individuals who have suffered hearing loss not be lumped together under one or two categories as we consider new educational paradigms and programs.

I also believe that it is simply not enough to investigate the overall effectiveness of existing educational facilities for the deaf, whether on an integrated or segregated basis, but that it is crucial to emphasize the central role that individual assessment of hearing loss should play in helping determine educational paths and options for the deaf. By "assessment" I mean assessment by competent audiologists rather than less adequately trained school officers.

ACID RAIN

Mrs. Marland: I am sure the United States will take very little notice of the petition from the Ontario government as addressed today in the statement of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). It is really interesting when we look at international issues and the lack of demonstrated commitment by this government.

Two years ago the select committee on the environment in our province had a unanimous resolution requesting Ontario Hydro to bring before that committee its path to meet the emission control limits for 1994: how it was going to do it, an absolute, detailed plan. That proposal was to come back to that same select committee on the environment. However, this minister has not seen fit to re-establish that committee and have hearings ongoing.

The commitment of the Minister of the Environment to the subject of acid rain certainly leaves a lot to be questioned. I feel that since we are being concerned about what is happening in the United States, and he talks about how the US Environmental Protection Agency has to wake up and smell the sulphur, I wonder what he thinks about the residents of Niagara Falls, New York, who wake up and smell the burning garbage that is now being trucked for the fourth year from Halton to Niagara Falls, New York.

While it is okay to be concerned about the acid rain, obviously we are not concerned about burning our garbage in the United States. Without having a plan in hand for Hydro as far as the scrubbers are concerned, this minister does a great deal of talking but very little action in mandating some of the most important programs for our environment today, this very same government which, no less than four days ago, voted against mandatory recycling in the province of Ontario.

SEMINARS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Mrs. Cunningham: I am very pleased to respond to the minister's statement on information seminars for seniors, and I am wondering who will be sharing the information. I congratulate the minister on taking the lead of the Conservative caucus. My colleagues hold these seminars across the province from time to time.

I think the real issue is whether we will be listening. "When you listen to us, we know you value us." We are not sure the government has listened to seniors on housing, on the expansion of integrated homemaker services, on the concerns they have about long waiting lists for hospitals and, most recently, on Sunday shopping.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses.

USE OF CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, if I might, very briefly on an earlier point of order raised by my friend the member for Niagara Falls (Mr.

Harris), I wanted to inform the House that I have just spoken to the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary), who does confirm that, in fact, the ad that the honourable member has drawn to the attention of the House and to you, Mr. Speaker, did appear with the phone number of the constituency office. The member assures me this was done without his knowledge or information, but he certainly does regret the embarrassment that has caused to the House and certainly wants that to be made very clear at this particular point in time. He has given me the assurance that he will make very clear to his riding association executive that this ought not to happen again in the future, and he will be here very shortly.

Mr. B. Rae: I did not realize that the House leader was a ventriloquist in addition to all his other talents.

ORAL QUESTIONS

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. B. Rae: In the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who I really regret is not able to be with us in question period today, I want to address some questions to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

An hon. member: Here he is.

Mr. B. Rae: My question, in that case, is to the Premier.

I spoke this morning to Ontario Provincial Police officers and York regional officers involved in the investigation of the events in Richmond Hill, and they have informed me that the investigation, in fact, has been ongoing since March 1988 and it is still ongoing; that there are several interviews still to be conducted; that the paperwork is, to use the words of one of the officers, enormous; and that it will be a few months before the inquiry with respect to Richmond Hill is completed, to say nothing of any additional work involved in the Markham allegations. In addition, I asked him about Vaughan and he said, "Nobody has talked to us about Vaughan yet, but if that is what happens, then it will obviously be that much longer."

My question to the Premier is this: What happens in the meantime to all those questions that the people of Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham have with respect to the administration and integrity of local government and its ability to deal with this development crisis in their region? Do they have to wait for months, and perhaps even years, before the completion of a police investigation?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member was quite right in referring the question to the Attorney General in the first place. I think he is more able to comment on this than I am.

Mr. Speaker: Referred to the Attorney General?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I think the honourable member knows that the examination conducted by the Ontario Provincial Police to decide whether criminal charges should be laid as a result of the municipal incidents at Richmond Hill began, as he said, and has been a very protracted one because of the enormous volume of paper, minutes and statements of witnesses that have to be prepared. This is not an investigation just for fun; this is an investigation to see if a criminal charge can be laid and made to stick, and it is important that the police should do that as carefully as they can, not only because law and order requires it but because the interests of citizens require it.

1410

We have in the ministry spoken to the deputy chief of the Ontario Provincial Police—I think that is his title—about the mandate assigned yesterday. We have asked them to do a thorough job and have indicated that, within limits, we will do everything we can to assure that resources, through the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), are made available for that purpose.

We are quite conscious of the importance of this, but when there are allegations that amount to allegations of crime, they should be taken seriously.

Mr. B. Rae: Of course they should be taken seriously. The ponderousness with which the Attorney General expresses the most obvious truism is breathtaking and no doubt adds to his sense of the seriousness of the situation, but really it does not bear a relationship to the broader questions.

I am sorry that the Premier has decided not to respond, because the questions really go well beyond the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. If I may quote from the comments made by Scott Sommerville, who is the chief administrative officer of Vaughan, Canada's fastest-growing municipality, in today's *Globe and Mail*, "There's not a council that can control this type of development."

The questions involved here extend well beyond the issue of criminality. I would like to ask the Attorney General, since these questions do extend so far beyond criminality, why the reluctance and, indeed, so far the refusal on his

part to launch, parallel to the very separate police investigation with respect to a criminal investigation, a major public inquiry that would deal with the adequacy and the capacity of local governments to deal with the extent and rapidity of development at the same time as it deals with the question of the monopoly on land and the extent to which the smaller developers are being squeezed out?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: These are matters of public policy, not matters of criminality.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable leader's proposal is that, at the same time as we are conducting a police investigation which may lead to criminal charges and a trial by jury in a criminal court, we should launch an investigation by way of committee or royal commission which will consider substantially the very same facts and which would require, for the most part, the very same witnesses to testify.

My honourable friend knows very well, because we have canvassed the issue in the unfortunate case at Inco in respect to the coroner's inquest, that in a case where a criminal trial and an inquiry, be it a royal commission or a coroner's inquest, are launched simultaneously, the witnesses are not obliged to attend the commission of inquiry. This is dictated by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. What would happen, of course, is that if we did not dispose of the criminal proceedings first, we would lose, after a royal commission or a commission of inquiry, the opportunity to deal with criminal charges.

I believe that if the serious allegations in the *Globe and Mail* are made out—and we have only the unsupported statements mostly of unnamed sources—these are matters that should be canvassed to see whether the sections of the Criminal Code that deal with municipal corruption have been breached. Then, when that process is complete, we will have the opportunity to see what remains to be done, including the important issues the honourable leader raises.

Mr. B. Rae: I could point out to the Attorney General a couple of examples within the last dozen years—most notably, perhaps, the example of the Royal Commission on Certain Sectors of the Building Industry, chaired by Judge Waisberg—which took place. There were certain criminal allegations which were involved in that. We all know that much valuable information with respect to practices in the construction

industry in this province became public knowledge. Perhaps they were not politically convenient for certain people, but they became public knowledge as a result of that royal commission.

The Attorney General's colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has already commenced a so-called administrative review, the only difference being that it does not have to listen to the public—the public does not have any access to that inquiry—and it has no subpoena powers, it has no capacity to require people to be interviewed.

I would again repeat my question to the Attorney General: What assurances do we have that a public inquiry will in fact be launched that will deal with these broader questions of public policy and that we will not see these questions buried in an interminable investigation which may never see the light of day, which may never become public and which may well get buried in an array of paperwork that denies the public the capacity to ask questions—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: —which, I would add again to the Attorney General, do not involve allegations of criminal behaviour?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Scott: It remains to be said—it is not a truism—that we have nothing to hide in this matter. What has happened is that allegations have been made in the press about the conduct of certain municipal officials in York region. Those are serious allegations. We are taking them seriously in order to see that any relevant material that may support a prosecution will come to the attention of the police and lead to a trial, which is the way, in a society like this, that we dispose of criminal allegations.

If there are other questions, and there may be, I simply remind the member that it was my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs who introduced the legislation that made the disclosure of campaign contributions at the municipal level mandatory and allowed the kind of examination that gave rise to this article. That is a positive feature.

We have nothing to hide about this matter at all, and if at the conclusion of the criminal review there remain questions outstanding, I am sure the honourable leader will ask them. If he does not, I will and so will my colleagues.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. B. Rae: My new question is to the Minister of Housing. The minister should know that as I speak now there is a hostel called the

Family Residence, which is a Metro Toronto hostel for single fathers and children, which hostel building can accommodate about 25 or 30 families. It has a policy of not turning away the families that come to its doors, as a result of which it is now renting about 100 motel rooms for families, including children who have nowhere else to go.

That is taking place at the same time as we have the information from the latest version of the public accounts that, in fact, when it comes to the ministry's social housing budget, appropriations are \$305.6 million and actual expenditures are \$276.8 million, which means the ministry has not spent some \$30 million in its social housing budget. How does the minister feel about that incredible contradiction of people having to shuffle between motel and motel when she has not even managed to spend the budget the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has allocated to her?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I have in fact just recently—last week—visited once again some of the shelters where people who do not have places to live have to spend their time. I am, with everyone else in this House, very aware of the suffering that leads to it. It is for that reason that this government has made its commitments to increase the supply of social housing in this province in an unprecedented way; it is for that reason that we are spending our resources in building more nonprofit housing as permanent housing for people who are homeless in this province and for other people with severe housing needs.

Our new program is going to make an enormous difference, as has the building we have already engaged in. At the moment there are about 20,000 units in process of being built in the province right now, and I think they are going to make a real difference for the people of the province who need help with their housing.

Mr. B. Rae: Waiting lists under this government have gone up astonishingly. They have gone up to the point now where there are at least 20,000 children on the waiting list for social housing in this province. Last year the minister did not spend nearly \$52 million, which was revealed by my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) in a set of questions. This year the figure on social housing is \$30 million. The total figure for her ministry that she has managed to not spend in the last two years is somewhere in the neighbourhood of some \$92 million at the same time as she is going around the province saying how much she is doing in the field of social housing.

There is a contradiction here. How can we have a waiting list that is growing, that grows every day, that grows even now as we sit in this Legislature, and a government and a minister that are so incompetent they fail to spend even the moneys that have been allocated to them by the Treasurer?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to talk a little bit about this, if I may. The reason we are moving as quickly as we are is that we know the needs are very great. It is also true that in the past year there have been some problems with building the social housing we are committed to build. It is for that reason that we have a land loan guarantee which has allowed a lot of the projects that would otherwise have had difficulty to get their hands on land and to hold it to make the building process work better.

That is also the reason we have made our commitment to using our provincial lands for the purposes of building social housing. We know that one of the big problems is the supply of land. That is the reason we have made the commitment that we have to use our provincial lands for the building of social housing all over this province.

1420

There have also been some regulatory delays in building some of the housing we would like to build. That is the reason we released our land use policy in August, which will be part of the process of building both social housing and other affordable housing all over the province in partnership with all our municipalities.

Mr. Breagh: Could the minister explain to us why, since this is the second year in a row she has basically wasted approved amounts of money in a desperately needed area, she did not learn the lesson last year? Why did she not turn this money over to the municipalities, for example, many of which have projects under way and could have utilized that money as soon as it became apparent that ministry staff were not able to approve the projects she had selected? Why did she allow, in the last two years, almost \$90 million of approved expenditures to be wasted simply because she could not handle in her ministry the approval process that she herself designed?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Our approval process is working very well. There have been difficulties with land, and we have addressed the difficulties with land in a variety of ways. We have created the land loan guarantee to make sure that more nonprofits can get their hands on land that they can use to build on and use it.

We have made our commitment, which we are acting on every day, for the land that we have in the province to be used for housing all over the province. Some municipalities have agreed to do exactly the same thing. The federal government, of course, has not yet done so, and I look forward to a federal government that will.

The other thing that we have done is very clearly to have made it much more possible for affordable housing, both for low- and moderate-income people, to be built in the province through our land use policy. Our land use policy will direct all municipalities to supply the needs of low- and moderate-income people.

I think we have made an enormous difference in this past year. I am not going to pretend that it is all perfect. There is a lot more work that needs to be done. There is a significant commitment on the part of this government to do that work and to solve the problems as they come along, one by one.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Sarnia.

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: I am going to wait until the applause dies down, Mr. Speaker, if you do not mind.

[Applause]

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brandt: Is that it?

My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The minister will probably be aware at this point, since we have been discussing this subject for the last week in this House, that with respect to the York regional development issue, on October 28, the Globe and Mail reported that "Several experienced planners...said the regional and provincial authorities who vet municipal development decisions also give these men fast-track treatment."

Will the minister confirm, as a result of that statement, if in fact it is accurate that his predecessor, now the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), did indeed fast-track the Bayview Hill project in Richmond Hill by having senior officials call the regional council and advise them that an approval was being given rather than the normal exchange of documents that takes place in a matter of this size?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I do not believe that any application is fast-tracked over any other application. I might say that there is a process that must be followed, and it is followed in every case. I can assure the member that there is no particular

application that is given special treatment. In this particular case, the application the member is referring to took some 16 months and went through the normal process, so there was no fast-tracking whatsoever.

I might say that I receive calls and indications from people asking where their proposal stands, and as far as I am concerned, fast-tracking is not the thing. Let's get the proposal approved as quickly as possible, but there are no special privileges given to anyone.

Mr. Brandt: On December 5 the assistant deputy minister of community planning took a rather unusual step with respect to this particular development, the 1,000 acres in York region. Namely, after the approval was in fact committed by cabinet, that assistant deputy minister did in fact make a phone call back to York regional council. Why would the assistant deputy minister take it upon himself to call rather than simply to send the approval in the normal fashion? Why was this unusual step taken with this particular set of circumstances relating to that 1,000-acre development?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I can only say that the individual is simply referring to a call he might have received, or a call for information as to where the proposal stood. But there has been no fast-tracking, there have been no special privileges given to anyone, let me assure the member.

Mr. Brandt: In light of the questions that have been raised relative to the way in which this and other developments have been handled in connection with this northern part of the Metropolitan Toronto area, will the minister agree to do what is proper in this particular instance, recognizing that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has narrowed the focus on this matter in a very specific way by limiting the investigation to the Ontario Provincial Police? Will the minister do the right thing and table documents relative to developments in that area so that the members of this House can see exactly what steps were taken at what particular times with respect to this whole matter? Will the minister do that?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: There is no secret in regard to this proposal or any other proposal. I want to assure the member that Mr. Ferguson of the Globe and Mail had full access to our files. In fact, he was assisted by our own ministry staff. We would be pleased to make available to the member whatever documents are necessary for his information.

Mr. Brandt: My new question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Yesterday the

minister indicated that he did not approve the 1,000-acre development in Richmond Hill. Outside of the House, the minister then went on to say that his ministry did not consider the particular application, because the official plan had already been amended, if I am quoting the minister correctly. This morning we have further information on this matter where officials of his ministry have said that they did consider the plan and it was approved because that particular land was serviced.

Would the minister clear the air on exactly what happened? In the first instance, he said that he denied the approval of the plan, that it went on to cabinet. In the second instance, he said he did not have to review it, because of the matter of the official plan being amended. Then, third, we have a ministry official telling still a third story. Which is the correct story? Could the minister advise the House?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This really had its beginning back in the early 1980s, when the municipality was developing a new official plan. At that time, my ministry did express some concerns about some of the inclusions in that official plan. Then, in 1983, the previous administration gave prior commitment to the official plan, which means, really, that what they were doing was giving a commitment that the plan could be amended to allow for future urban growth in that part of Toronto the member is referring to. Once that prior commitment is given, then my ministry, with the Food Land Guidelines, cannot supersede any prior commitment that was given to a plan. As I say, a prior commitment was given by the previous administration.

Mr. Brandt: I am well aware of the fact that servicing was made available to that region and servicing was made available to that particular area to be developed. The York trunk, which was developed by the previous government, enlarged the capacity so that area could grow. I am well aware of that.

But the minister's official said that because one of the main stipulations with respect to this whole approval process—that the servicing be available for the land—had been met, that was the reason there was not any necessary approval from his ministry with respect to this whole matter. Can the minister quote from the Food Land Guidelines what section specifically states that when servicing is available, Food Land Guidelines do not apply? Could he enlighten the House on that?

1430

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I cannot quote at this time. I do not have the Food Land Guidelines with me. But again I have to reiterate that prior commitment was given by the previous administration that the official plan could be amended to allow for future urban growth provided that certain conditions were met, one of those conditions being that there be adequate services available. The municipality apparently did establish the fact that the services were available.

My ministry cannot comment further on a previous commitment that was made. It is just as simple as that.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: They cannot. The Food Land Guidelines state—

Mr. Sterling: You might as well throw it out the window.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: When a prior commitment is made by a previous administration—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr. Brandt: With respect to the Food Land Guidelines, let me read to the minister from those guidelines. It states in section 3.12, under "Evaluation of Alternative Uses" on page 11, "Where the municipality consists of predominantly good agricultural land, estate development will need to be restricted in location and amount, or possibly prohibited."

Under section 3.14 it states: "Documentation of need for the land use must cover each of four basic issues: the necessity for the land use, the amount of land needed, the reasons for the choice of location and the consideration given to alternative locations on lower-capability" or lower-quality "agricultural land."

Given that this was prime agricultural land, that it was not to be developed, in spite of what the minister has said with respect to capacity being made available by a previous government, until the year 2000 and that it would be used solely for estate housing in this particular instance, could the minister—and my question is coming forward now—tell us why the ministry, in its collective wisdom, approved this project when it is so obviously contrary to its own guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Again I have to come back to the fact that the previous administration granted support to an amendment to the official plan, provided that certain conditions were met. When they granted that, I do not think they suspected in their wildest imagination that the

services would be available for some period of time. The services did become available, and it would be absolutely redundant for my ministry to make any comment, because if the matter did go to the Ontario Municipal Board, my ministry would have no grounds to stand on, because the Food Land Guidelines do not supersede prior commitments that are made, and that were made, by the previous administration.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breugh) is waiting patiently to ask his question.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Breugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. In the statement that was released jointly in August of this year by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) and herself—which, to remind other members, is the one that, among other things, requested municipalities to take a minimum of 25 per cent of affordable housing—she outlined a process that both of them laid out for municipalities to comment to the various ministries, on making changes to the planning process itself.

Of course, from the municipalities' point of view, there were a number of concerns raised about how these projects would be financed, how the ministries would respond to the needs of various municipalities. Essentially, it was to take submissions until February and then, after that, announcements would be made of any changes that would be made.

Could the minister update the House on what plans have been made, since I know there have been submissions to various ministries from the municipalities but we have not seen a public response from any of the ministries as to changes that are under way? Yet we do see, in the allegations that surround all of the York region development, that some developed plans for development do proceed faster than others, whether there is a fast-track process or not.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Breugh: The ministry itself is now introducing what it calls allocation systems. Can the minister explain those processes to us?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked. Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Indeed, last August at the annual meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and I released our land use policy guidelines. What we told people then, and

what is still true, is that we would be working actively with the municipalities and other concerned people to take their suggestions, on the basis of which we will have a final land use policy statement.

What is going on right now is a series of meetings that have been organized around the province jointly with my and the Minister of Municipal Affairs' people. The municipalities are coming forward, as are people in the development industry, as are interested and concerned citizens all over the province. We want to hear from them their reactions to our suggestions for the guidelines and also how we can work together to make sure the two major goals are met.

The major goal is to have open communities in which people of mixed income can live together. The ways of reaching those goals in particular are the 25 per cent guideline for affordable housing in the new developments and also intensification in the building of communities and redevelopment of communities that are already there.

Mr. Breaugh: I really am, in a sense, bothered by that kind of response. Very bluntly, the rules on how plans are approved appear to be changing. No one quite knows what the changes are. There are allocation systems being put in place that no one has heard of before. There are some that are being given, it is rumoured, a fast track, but there is no explanation as to what that fast track is. In other words, the ministries appear to have changed the rules by which plans for development are approved, but no one knows what the rule changes have been. Could the minister explain that to us?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: There are no changes in the rules at this point. What we are doing is working to get the official plans, in particular of the municipalities and areas in which the pressure of growth is so great, organized to meet our guidelines. In the spring, there was a series of meetings of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and myself with mayors and regional chairs of some of the major regions of the province facing pressures of growth.

What we said at the time, and I think we were very explicit about this, was that we would work with them to smooth the processes and to deal with the problems they are facing in the whole development process. What we are trying to do is speed up the time of approvals of what takes place inside our government and ask them to speed up the time of approvals of what takes

place in their level of government, in order to make sure that our affordable housing goals are met.

We are working with them in partnership. This is an ongoing process. I believe it is a very important one, because what it will do is make sure that the goals of affordable housing across this province are met and that we speed up the process for meeting those goals, because the needs, as everyone in this House acknowledges, are very great. People should not have to wait as long as they have been. One of the ways we will make this happen is by working actively—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: —with the municipalities to make the changes required.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is one of the most serious issues facing our society today. It is absolutely imperative that this government take a leadership role in combatting this deadly epidemic, but because of its lack of leadership, doctors in this province are now having to take matters into their own hands and make decisions to distribute syringes to drug users.

This is a decision, quite frankly, that the Minister of Health should have taken. This is not a decision which belongs to individual physicians and it is not a decision which belongs to the chief of police of Metropolitan Toronto. With all due respect to the minister and her ministry, it is a responsibility that the Minister of Health should adopt. While AIDS is spreading, through intravenous drug use, at an alarming rate, the minister appears to be doing nothing. She is vacillating about this very important decision. When is she going to make a decision and when is she going to take a leadership role in this issue?

1440

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, I am very proud of the leadership position that the Ministry of Health in Ontario has taken in this country. In fact, we have been significant in bringing people together to address the many important issues about AIDS and human immunodeficiency virus infection.

As the member would know, I journeyed to Sweden to the AIDS conference in Stockholm this June, where we were at that time informed of events in other jurisdictions.

I am pleased to hear that the member is offering his advice on needle exchange pro-

grams. This is one thing which is presently under review by the ministry. We are hoping to discuss this issue and are in the process of discussing it now with the Addiction Research Foundation, with pharmacy, which has a key role to play.

We acknowledge that in Ontario we have a different milieu from other jurisdictions where it is perfectly legal for pharmacists to sell syringes without prescription. In Ontario, however, there are some legal implications and pharmacy itself has some concerns about the way pharmacists control the sale of the syringes.

At the present time, I believe it is very appropriate for physicians to dispense to their patients. I would not want to interfere in a physician-patient relationship. This issue is currently under review, and I thank the member for his advice.

Mr. Eves: Those are all very nice platitudes that the minister is telling us here in the House today. Metro Police Chief Marks has changed his opinion and asks why about this particular issue.

In many western countries, street-level needle clinics are already dispensing clean syringes—I think the minister knows that—and the results of those are as follows. The spread of AIDS has either stabilized or decreased in those countries, there has been no increase in the number of people who use needles and many people have come forward for treatment for the very first time.

The minister and her ministry already know what the Addiction Research Foundation thinks about this very important matter. She knows that 75 per cent of needle users in Canada repeat and use the same needle or use needles that other people have used. The Addiction Research Foundation provided the minister with those statistics many, many months ago. She knows that this year that same foundation will tell her that there are over 17,000 high school students in Ontario who will use needles.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Eves: She knows all those facts. She and her deputy minister were over there in June. She has been sitting on the sidelines. When is she going to make some decisions and act on this information?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would describe the spread of AIDS and HIV infection as probably the public health challenge of our generation. Our goal is to prevent the spread of AIDS and of HIV infection and to make sure that people have the advice and the information that they need to protect themselves against this deadly disease.

At the beginning of December, the Ministry of Health will be hosting a working conference to address many of these important issues. We are bringing people together to discuss them and to help us as we determine the next step in the challenge in Ontario.

At the present point in time, we are spending more than \$20 million in the combat of this deadly disease. I am pleased to have the member's advice, because I can share with him the concern I have that when we give this information and assistance to intravenous drug users, one of our goals must be to help them get off the drugs that they are on and ensure that there is public safety when we talk about the kinds of programs that will stop the spread of AIDS.

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Last week, the Toronto Star reported the minister's concern that the federal government is using political criteria to shut Ontario out of a series of multimillion-dollar defence and aerospace contracts. From what the minister is saying, there is a distinct bias towards Quebec companies.

May I ask, first of all, whether the minister can give this House some details about this matter; and second, what initiatives he and his ministry are taking to protect the legitimate interests of Ontario aerospace industries?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for his question. He has brought up a very, very serious matter. We know that 52 per cent of the aerospace industry is located in Ontario, with 40 per cent in Quebec. Notwithstanding that, since 1985, 88.2 per cent of all government funding under the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and the defence industry productivity program has gone to Quebec and only about eight per cent to Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We have a situation where there is a definite tilting to the disadvantage of Ontario-based companies in order for them to get defence business.

Mr. Daigeler: I am very concerned about the potential for serious friction, especially between Ontario and Quebec. I, as a member of this House, do not feel this is in the best interests of Canadians.

I would like to ask the minister whether he has any proposals on how to avoid these kinds of problems which the federal Tories got us into,

and how we might place contract awarding on the basis of economic merit rather than political calculation.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: If members are interested in this subject, and they should be, I can tell them—because many of them represent areas in this province that have a very significant aerospace component and if they would only be listening to their constituents, they would have an idea of the problem—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: —we have no problem with our Quebec or any other provincial counterparts. Our dispute is with the federal government which has taken this particular position.

We have a situation where ministers meet on a regular basis, dealing with government procurement, dealing with such areas as interprovincial trade barriers, and we are resolving those. What is happening is that we have a federal government that has taken a political decision to fragment the Ontario industry and divert it to Quebec.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

TORONTO WATERFRONT

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Premier. It concerns a proposal that was released by his office a couple of weeks ago called Bold Concept II, a massive redevelopment of the Toronto waterfront.

Just a year ago, in the speech from the throne, the Premier called for co-ordinated planning of the Toronto waterfront and set up an intergovernmental waterfront committee. We also have the Crombie commission looking at the Toronto waterfront, and just a month or so ago, the city of Toronto passed a central waterfront plan.

Can the Premier explain to the House how this proposal, Bold Concept II, commissioned by his office and paid for by his office, contributes to co-ordinated planning of the waterfront?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was desperately hoping that the member would ask me a question I could refer to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). Unfortunately, I cannot, and I am very happy to respond to the honourable member.

As the honourable member will be aware, a year or so ago, perhaps a year and a half ago, in response to some of the concerns that I and others have had about the development of the waterfront in Toronto, we put together an ad hoc group

comprising a federal representative, Mr. Crombie at the time, who was then a federal minister, the Metro chairman and the mayor of Toronto to make sure we were harnessing the resources that we had most effectively to provide a vision for the waterfront over a long period of time.

Frankly, there were a number of outstanding questions—even the size of the planning area, whether it was just downtown Toronto or whether it extended out into Etobicoke and other areas—because everyone has his own view of the situation. My honourable friend will be aware there is just a myriad of agencies that have influence some way or other.

Interjections.

1450

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, your honourable friends are making a lot of noise over there and may not have the same keen intellectual interest that you do in the subject.

So we put together an ad hoc group. Subsequent to that, the federal government decided to create a royal commission, headed by Mr. Crombie, who is now devoting full-time to that. I turned over the chairmanship of this ad hoc group to Mr. Crombie, because he is putting in full-time on it, and I can say that we are working in a very co-ordinated way.

I know there is lots of discussion about this, particularly during the municipal election and at other times, but it is our view and it is my view that we have to make sure we use every single resource that we have to develop a vision for the waterfront over the next 40 and 50 years. There is a wide variety of individual ideas that have been presented. The mayor of Etobicoke is very keen on waterfront development. As the member knows, he has some very specific ideas, as do various other mayors.

Mrs. Grier: Almost as bad as yours.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I know my honourable friend probably thinks she has the only good ideas on this, and there are other destructive elements that do not want to do anything. There is an awful lot of turf in this, as she knows. I can tell my honourable friend that there is no specific plan that is going forward at the moment. A lot of dialogue will go on, a lot of discussion and a lot of rationalization of the existing jurisdictions that are—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mrs. Grier: I am very familiar with the activities of the intergovernmental waterfront committee and this Premier has just outlined them.

My question was, how does the unilateral initiative of his office in commissioning, for \$35,000, a rehash of a plan that was current 20 years ago and that only succeeded in producing the Leslie Street Spit, an environmental problem ever since, contribute to co-ordinated planning? Does the Premier want to emulate Premier Vander Zalm, who has Fantasy Gardens, and have a Harbourfront Haven or something?

Who is doing the planning, the intergovernmental committee that is established or Duncan Allan in the Premier's office? Where does the responsibility lie? That is my question.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend that I honestly do seek out and search out the best advice I can possibly find in all areas of my endeavour. I can tell her we are not looking to create another Fantasy Gardens on the water here.

There are no universal, imposed plans from anyone. I want my honourable friend to be very clear about that. There are a number of committees going on, as she knows, that are discussing the matter. Public hearings will be held in the not-too-distant future with respect to ideas on the waterfront, and then the difficulty will be to bring all the various jurisdictions into play on the matter.

I think we have to be fair about this. There are some wonderful things along that waterfront, but I think a lot of people looking at it say some planning mistakes were made as well. You can now see the assertion of turf by certain people over this particular matter. What we have to do, in my view, is to build a vision that everyone can buy in, and use our strengths collectively. Really, that is what we are hoping to do, and the federal government is working on it—

Mr. B. Rae: Everyone can buy in. That's it; that's the Liberal vision. Buy into our dream. Put up your money.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, my honourable friend is against everything, but I say that I think we can develop a vision that will be supported by the federal government, by Metro, by the city and by the various other cities that will be very constructive along the way.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. On the first day of this fall session, the minister told us his ministry would commit \$5 million to ensure that 5,000 apprentices who really want to take training in their chosen trade field would receive that training.

Many of these apprentices in fact were already participating in programs that were postponed, and since June these people have been left in limbo, unable to complete their programs, while employers look to other provinces and south of the border for skilled labour. A call to the ministry just this morning still did not reveal when these programs will be reinstated. Surely the minister understands how important it is to quickly reinstate them.

When will the 5,000 apprentices and 3,000 employers throughout the province know what is happening to these deferred programs? What programs will the minister be supporting and how soon will he make his announcement?

Hon. Mr. Curling: If members recall, just recently I stood in the House and made a statement about committing \$5 million to the apprenticeship shortfall that was done by the federal government. I had hoped that all honourable members were listening, and I am quite sure the honourable member was listening at the time.

I just want to bring members up to date about what caused this. It is the federal government that did not come through with its portion of the money. This government decided it would not stand by and see those apprentices not getting their training. We came through with \$5 million. I hope, with the strong co-operation of our colleagues across the floor, to get the federal government committed to apprenticeship programs again and to put more money there so we can train all people in Ontario.

Mrs. Cunningham: That was such a simple question: When is the minister going to spend his \$5 million he so valiantly put forth for the apprenticeship programs? The minister has an opportunity to answer it in the next question. He can answer that one or he can answer this one, my supplementary question. He has a choice, one or two.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is very important that the minister hear the question.

Mrs. Cunningham: We would like to offer some suggestions here if the minister is having trouble spending his \$5 million. Another way of dealing with this is to involve our secondary schools.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There seems to be some unnecessary noise. I remind the member for London North that I asked for a supplementary question.

Mrs. Cunningham: I would love to ask the supplementary question if I could have the floor.

Mr. Speaker: Are you going to ask a question?

Mrs. Cunningham: Yes.

It is common knowledge that there is a growing mismatch between the number of unfilled job vacancies and those seeking work, due to a lack of training, and we should be using our secondary schools to implement these programs. What steps is the minister actively pursuing to integrate apprenticeship training and co-operative education programs in our secondary schools?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I must thank the honourable member again for asking the question nine minutes before question period is over because it will take me about that time, Mr. Speaker. I have all the time to answer that, as you said.

She said I have two options here. Let me state again that I stood and made a statement in the House about the shortfall the federal government made in regard to apprenticeship programs. I am telling all the community colleges that offer apprenticeship programs to go right ahead and tell those students who were waiting for that federal government money to come that we have put forward our \$5 million.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is the duty of the chair to make certain that every member has the right to speak and the right to be heard.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Let me take a shot at the second part of the question. I want to tell the member, and she knows it, that the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward), the Minister of Education, is working co-operatively with the Minister of Skills Development to get co-op programs going. If there is any concern at all that we are not spreading the message of training, it is being spread within the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and also the Ministry of Skills Development. I am telling my colleague that we are right on target in developing apprenticeship programs and training within Ontario.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Health. This province provides free prescription drugs for seniors and welfare recipients in order to ensure they have the medication that is necessary for their health. I understand that when at all possible, the pharmacists fill their prescriptions by way of the less expensive, generic drugs.

Sometimes the physician—I understand almost always when at the insistence of the patient—will prescribe the brand-name drugs at considerably greater expense to the taxpayer. Obviously, the generic drugs are satisfactory or they would not be available to be filled.

Can the minister consider paying for only the generic medication, leaving the extra costs of a brand name to be borne by any consumer who wishes to have the brand name?

1500

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is important for the member and all members in the House to know that physicians are required by legislation to provide the lowest-price drug in a group of interchangeable drugs. The Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee in fact determines which drugs will be determined as interchangeable, based on research and analysis. A pharmacist will dispense a brand-name drug where the prescribing physician has clearly written “no substitution” on the prescription.

Mr. Owen: Doctors tell me that as high as 90 per cent of the time that they prescribe brand-name drugs they do so at the insistence of the particular patient. This amounts to a sizeable difference in how much the taxpayers are out for generic drugs as opposed to the brand-name drugs. Can the minister give us any facts and figures to show how much the taxpayer is out, how much her budget is out as to generic drugs as opposed to when we have had to provide and pay for the brand-name drugs?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: For the information of the member, it is a medical decision to determine which drug will be prescribed for a patient. At the present time, “no substitution” prescriptions account for about one per cent of the Ontario drug benefit plan. I think this is an issue, and I would be pleased to refer the member’s question to Dr. Lowy and the Lowy drug inquiry, which is reviewing all aspects of the government’s role in the design of the program and the prescription drug marketplace.

I share his concern because I think all of us want to see the very best possible therapeutic results for the people in this province who receive their drugs from the Ontario drug benefit program.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DETENTION CENTRE

Mr. Allen: I have a question to the Minister of Correctional Services. Two hundred and forty-six workers, as many inmates and about 60 young offenders inhabit and work in a sick

Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre that is making them sick. The matter has been studied in the past somewhat. There have been a couple of air quality control studies that have yielded quite inconclusive results, yet the human symptoms persist. I have talked with various persons on that staff, some of whom do not want to be identified, but they all agree with reception officer Russ Selkirk, maintenance mechanic Paul Gibson and guard Frank Preston, that widespread in the building are the symptoms of sore eyes, sore throats, burning lungs, headaches, cramps, rashes, and in individual cases sometimes more severe symptoms than those.

Inasmuch as the studies to date have not yielded results with regard to this problem, what is the minister prepared to do to get to the bottom of this persistent problem at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am quite glad to respond to the member for Hamilton West. The member is right that previous tests by the Ministry of Labour have shown that there is really no factor that can be pinpointed as to why the conditions are as they are. As the member knows, yesterday we hired an outside consulting firm, Acres International, to carry on a new set of tests. Also, part of that contract with the consultant is that the consultant meet with the workers' committee in the detention centre in order to set out the parameters of that test.

We will be awaiting quite anxiously the results of that test and we will proceed from there.

Mr. Allen: I thank the minister. I appreciate the response to date. It is obviously a move in the right direction, but notwithstanding, the tests of the same kind having been inconclusive, one is not necessarily hopeful.

The minister may well know that the whole question of sick-building syndrome is a very complicated one. The science that attacks it is relatively primitive. The government to date has not responded, for example, to the sensitivity studies done by Judge Thomson in the past, and the issue remains very much one at the beginning levels of an issue.

Will the minister take a further step and appoint an independent inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act that would include the specialists who would have to be involved, not only specialists in air quality but also industrial hygiene specialists, clinical ecologists and allergists, climate control specialists and building design specialists, in order to get to the bottom of this issue and hopefully to tackle the more widespread problem facing us in many of our

urban centres, in particular with sealed-building sickness?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would say to the member I think that step right now would be premature. I think it would be fair to take this one step at a time and I hope the member would agree with me that we should take a look and see what the results of this testing are.

We have a company with up-to-date and very modern equipment that is supposed to be some of the best in the world. We think we might find something with this set of testing. Let's take it one step at a time. I would like to assure the member that I will make sure resources are dedicated to resolving the situation if we can find out what the problem is.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Harris: I would like to ask the Minister of Housing a question concerning John Sewell. Mr. Sewell had five major objectives he worked on with the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority: repairs and maintenance, and actually hiring superintendents was one of them; new steps in financial management was a second one; improvements in tenant relations was a third; improvements in security within the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority was a fourth, and an undertaking to expand and build new units was a fifth.

I wonder if the Minister of Housing could tell us which ones of those five she disagrees with. I think she would agree that covers the major reforms Mr. Sewell put forward. If she does not disagree with any of those five, could she give us one good reason why she fired John Sewell?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am glad to reiterate the agenda for reform that the Ontario Housing Corp. and the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority share. What we want to do is improve the lives of the tenants in our buildings in every way possible. For that reason, we are committed to improving the maintenance in those buildings, to working on security issues in relation with our tenants and to working on the whole question of eligibility.

One of the things I am very proud of, in fact, is that we have extended eligibility to Ontario Housing Corp. to all the people in the province who have housing needs. Among the things we have been working on in tenant relations are race relations, and also extending eligibility to battered women.

The other thing I think we have done is to extend fairer access to the working poor at the

Ontario Housing Corp. I believe our commitment to improving the quality of tenant life in the housing is very genuine, the kind of work we are doing. Our new chairman, who will be coming on board on November 24, will extend and build on that agenda for reform, and I am very pleased about that.

PETITIONS

NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Sterling: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"On the issue of the location of the federal space agency:

"We condemn the present Liberal government for doing so little to convince the federal government to locate the national federal space agency in Ottawa-Carleton while Quebec pursued this matter with vigour; and

"Further, we oppose the stand of John Turner, the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, to locate the space agency in Montreal, Quebec; and

"Further, we believe that the space agency should be located in Ottawa-Carleton and not in Montreal as Mr. Turner has suggested."

That is signed by three other members of this party and myself.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Kozyra: This petition is on behalf of the Thunder Bay and District Injured Workers Support Group. It contains 364 signatures and reads as follows:

"We care about injured workers. We protest the Minister of Labour's proposal to change the law that would take away injured workers' rights to permanent disability pensions when they are permanently disabled; that would do almost nothing about the miserable compensation of existing injured workers and their widows and that would leave the injured workers of the future worse off. Workers who are killed or injured in their work deserve much better treatment than this."

1510

USE OF TIME FOR MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, under standing orders 27(a), 28(a), and 29(g): Earlier today during members' statements the member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller) rose to make a

member's statement on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's tripartite stabilization program. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to carefully review the statement of the member for Norfolk with standing orders 27(a) and 29(g) in mind. After you have reviewed the statement, I would ask you, sir, to determine whether this matter should be referred to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly for further review and recommendation.

Specifically, when you review the member's statement, I would ask you to keep in mind that the member for Norfolk is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). I believe the member's statement today fits the following definition, and I am quoting standing order 28(a), "A short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed."

This is the definition of a ministerial statement as defined in the standing orders, and that is what I believe the parliamentary assistant for Agriculture and Food read during members' statements—a ministerial statement.

My concern is that the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food is abusing backbench members' time to make ministerial announcements. Members' statements are intended for the use of backbench private members. During the negotiations for the current standing orders, we agreed party leaders and ministers of the crown would not be permitted to use members' statements, because they had the forum of ministerial statements and response was available to them.

You will be aware, Mr. Speaker, that there is a standing order, 29(g), which does not permit a parliamentary assistant to ask questions during question period of his or her own minister. The reasons for this are obvious, and I would suggest the same logic applies for members' statements. If the minister had made this agricultural announcement during ministerial statements, we would have been given the opportunity to respond. As the parliamentary assistant has made this announcement during members' statements, not only has time been taken away from private members, but it has robbed us of an opportunity to respond to what I believe is clearly a ministerial statement.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to review the Hansard of the statement from the member for Norfolk and, if you agree with me that this statement clearly falls into the definition of standing order 28(a), then you should refer the

entire question of the use and abuse of members' statements to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker: I certainly listened to the point of order very carefully. I will look at all the relevant matters suggested by the member, because I am fully aware that members' statements may be made by all members other than leaders of parties or ministers. But I will look at it.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill 87, An Act to amend the Ontario Highway Transport Board Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT

LOI MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA SANTÉ ET LA SÉCURITÉ AU TRAVAIL

Hon. Mr. Sorbara moved second reading of Bill 180, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am delighted to lead off this debate on second reading of Bill 180. As I mentioned when I introduced this bill, the workplace hazardous materials information system, the system Bill 180 puts into place, will play a major role in preventing workplace illness and injury.

The WHMIS concept is built on three elements: a label to alert workers as to the hazards of the material and the precautions to be taken; a material safety data sheet to provide more details of the hazards and the precautions, and education and training to ensure that workers understand and can use the information being provided to work safely with the material.

The WHMIS project was started in 1982 because there was a general recognition by provincial and federal governments and by industry and labour that a problem existed across Canada in terms of health and safety information available on hazardous materials used in the workplace.

Specifically, the information available varied in quantity and in quality. There were no uniform requirements on the suppliers of hazardous materials used in the workplace that specified how much and what kind of information they had to provide to their customers about their products.

Employers have always had an obligation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to provide information to their workers about hazards relating to the handling of hazardous materials in the workplace, but employers often had difficulty in obtaining health and safety information about these materials. Even if they did get the information, it was not clear how much information should be passed on to workers. What WHMIS will provide is information to users in a more consistent and uniform manner.

There must be a label on the containers of hazardous materials under WHMIS. The label is intended as the first warning. The label from the supplier must be within a distinctive border so that workers will know immediately that this is a hazardous material and will know to act accordingly. The supplier label will also have hazard symbols which will alert workers to the hazards presented by the material. The label will contain a short statement of the risk and the precautions that a worker will take, as well as first aid information.

The label will indicate that a material safety data sheet is available, and workers will use the product name, which must be the same on the label and the material safety data sheet, so they can find the right data sheet for the product.

The material safety data sheet will have to contain a minimum of information no matter who produces it. The categories of information to be provided are as follows: product identification and use; a list of all hazardous ingredients; physical data such as the boiling and melting point; fire and explosion data; reactive data—for example, conditions under which the material is unstable; toxicological properties—that is, health hazards; preventive measures, which include the personal protective equipment required to handle the material safely; first aid measures, and last, the name and telephone number of whoever prepared the data sheet and the date the information was prepared.

The information provided is expected to be comprehensive and should include all that can reasonably be expected to be known about the material and its hazardous properties.

Finally, data sheets have to be updated every three years or sooner if new information on the hazardous material becomes available.

These two elements, the label and the material safety data sheet, together make up the information requirements of WHMIS.

The third element of the WHMIS triad is education and training of workers using materials meeting the WHMIS criteria of hazardous in the workplace. The responsibility for ensuring that workers are trained to understand the WHMIS system, the information being provided and the procedures to be used at that workplace to protect workers' health and safety falls upon the employer. The workplace education program required under the WHMIS regulation has to be developed and implemented in consultation with the joint health and safety committee, if one exists, and be related to any existing training programs currently being undertaken in the workplace.

The worker training has to include the following:

First, what information is required on the label and material safety data sheet and the purpose and significance of that information to the worker, that is, what does it mean to workers if the data sheet says the material is carcinogenic, and what has to be done to ensure that the worker is protected.

1520

Second, the training must include procedures used in that workplace for the safe use, storage, handling and disposal of the material. This means the employer must have control procedures in place for each material to ensure proper worker protection.

Next, although employers have always had a duty to train workers about hazardous materials in the workplace and the proper precautions to be taken, we are aware that not all employers have complied with this duty. To assist employers, and especially the smaller employers, the WHMIS partners, that is government, industry and labour, felt a responsibility to ensure that Ontario workers and employers have access to a comprehensive training program which could be adapted to any workplace.

As a result, the employer safety associations and the Workers' Health and Safety Centre of the Ontario Federation of Labour have jointly developed a high-quality, low-cost training program through the co-ordinating efforts of the Occupational Health and Safety Education Authority.

The Ministry of Labour has funded the development of these materials, as well as the training of some 400 trainers who will deliver the program across the province. In addition to conducting in-plant courses, these trainers will run community training sessions for those workers whose place of employment is too small for a full-scale training session. This training package has been used by many large employers in Ontario, as well as by small and medium-sized employers. In addition, it is being used by employers outside of Ontario, such as BC Hydro and Power Authority.

One aspect of WHMIS that was not intended but which can be anticipated is that if workers are provided with information about hazards of chemicals they encounter and are trained in the proper precautions to be taken, those workers will take this knowledge outside of the workplace to their homes or their hobby areas and apply their knowledge to the use of similar materials at home and elsewhere. As legislators, I believe we may therefore face increased pressure from the public for more and better information on hazardous materials used in the house, in the hobby room or in the garage.

I would like to emphasize that the WHMIS project represents a unique co-operative approach to problem solving and to the development of legislation in which all the major stakeholders were involved from the very beginning. Needless to say, achieving a consensus among industry, labour and the government can take a long time. In fact, it took almost three years of tripartite consultation before an agreement was reached on how WHMIS should work.

The model for how WHMIS is to work was developed by a tripartite steering committee which was put together in 1982 to develop a nationally consistent system for communicating information about hazardous materials used in workplaces to the users of those materials.

The steering committee consisted of three federal regulators, Labour, Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Health and Welfare Canada; three industrial representatives, one each from a major chemical producer, from a major chemical product user and from a manufacturers' association; and three labour representatives chosen by the Canadian Labour Congress.

Additional ex officio members on the committee included the chairpersons of the various working groups, representatives from provincial and territorial occupational health and safety agencies, other interested industries or labour organizations and other interested federal depart-

ments. Membership on the committee totalled approximately 36 persons over the three-year period required to accomplish the mission.

The steering committee presented its report to the ministers across Canada with responsibility for occupational health and safety in July 1988. It is interesting to note that of the 87 recommendations in the report, 84 were consensus recommendations, despite the differing interests of the groups represented.

The consensus achieved was carried through in development of the legislation as well, both the federal legislation and the provincial legislation, so that we could implement the recommendations of the steering committee. Industry and labour were full participants with the federal and provincial regulators.

The impact of this consensus approach is truly remarkable, I believe, and has led to a greater awareness of this important initiative because it is being advocated not only by government but by industry and labour groups as well.

As an occupational health and safety initiative, the workplace hazardous materials information system has achieved a greater acceptance than any other occupational health and safety program in our history. The WHMIS hotline, established at the ministry, is receiving some 700 calls a week. It is hoped that we can build on this consensus and use it in other areas of occupational health and safety to match this truly unique and remarkable exercise.

WHMIS will strengthen the internal responsibility system on which Ontario's occupational health and safety system is based. It will provide workers and management with the information about chemicals and hazards in the workplace that they need. It will ensure that workers are trained to understand that information and apply it in their everyday working situations. By providing information and training, it should ensure greater and more effective participation by workers in decisions that affect their own occupational health and safety.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Are there any questions and comments on the minister's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate?

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to rise in this debate on Bill 180. The amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act are amendments that labour welcomes, generally speaking, and seem to be ones that they basically agreed with, really to allow the introduction and enforcement of the WHMIS legislation and its national legislation coast to coast. They are

amendments that meet many of the commitments made to labour and the national requirements.

However, there is, as the minister knows, at least one serious problem that most workers had hoped would be dealt with. It is a problem that makes one of the amendments—and it is a key one—pretty well meaningless. The act is to be amended in subsection 22g(2) to require worker training to be developed and implemented in consultation with the joint committee of health and safety representatives, if any, for the workplace.

The word "implemented" was welcomed and an improvement as far as most of the worker reps were concerned because it ensures their involvement in both the development and delivery of implementation as directed by the national agreement in their model occupational safety and health regulations. The operative word here, however, is "consultation." Despite several attempts at interpreting this word, the bottom line remains that the Occupational Health and Safety Act does not compel the involvement of workers and their representatives in the delivery of training. No amount of rhetoric suggesting that agreement between the workplace parties or workers training workers has merit alters the basic problem that consultation essentially means an employer can do exactly what the employer wants to do and the ministry cannot force the involvement of workers in the agreement.

The concern over this, as I think the minister well knows, is that it makes a bit of a mockery of the internal responsibility system. It is something that we in this party have argued about for a long time, where workers are supposed to share in the responsibility; and I might say questions the minister's own rhetoric stating that stakeholders must be totally involved and that a true consultative and co-operative process is evolving in Ontario among government, labour and management. We have a little way to go on some of that as yet.

Sandra Glasbeek from the ministry has stated that it is the word "consultation" that represents the problem, and she is dead on. Clearly, the act must be amended to compel the involvement of workers. Fortunately, the word "consultation" was agreed to in the national model OSH. We understand what is going on across this country but, certainly on our part, we did not expect, and hoped we would not have, this limited interpretation. Either the ministry must undertake to produce the interpretation that compels the employer to involve worker members on joint

committees to reach agreement over the development and implementation of the worker training or it must amend the act to provide for such involvement and agreement.

It is our hope and our understanding that the minister at least is willing to take a look, and I know he has been talked to on this particular matter by officials of the Ontario Federation of Labour and other groups that were involved in this safety and health legislation to take a look at amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act that might deal with this particular problem in the future.

1530

We understand that we are dealing with a national bill they want in across the country, and this is the wording that is going in in most of the provinces. It does not mean, however, that this minister could not deal with what is a very serious shortcoming in the bill.

The amendments also provide that the employer can have his or her material safety data sheets available on computer. We have raised the problem, and I believe this has also been raised with the minister—I am not totally sure what his response was—that computers cannot always be available in the workplace, if you know a little bit about them, because of the dust and dirt there which can foul up computers very quickly.

We have to be assured of access on any shift, not just on a day shift, where it might be available in the manager's office. We need hard copies of the information available out on the work floor in many of the plants in Ontario and not just in a computer location, which, as I said before, is not necessarily secure, because we tend to have problems with computers in dusty or dirty workplaces.

The ministry is proposing to provide a regulation under subsection 22c(6) which would require the employer to furnish an inventory—I think they are still working on the regulations to prescribe what would be in the inventory—and up-to-date material safety data sheets to the medical officer of health, the fire department and the director in the ministry no later than October 31, 1990.

In the meantime, the wording of subsection 22c(6) provides for all of these authorities to request such information and to provide it for a community right to know. That is a regulation I know they are still working on. Both environmentalists and I know the city of Toronto are willing to accept "upon request," but they feel a time limit should be required—say, 30 days—for

the employer to forward the requested information.

Also, many medical officers of health and fire departments do not ever want all of this information automatically forwarded, since by October 31, 1990, they would have no way, really, of processing it.

I am not going to go into the notes I have on the meaning of consultation. I know there has been a considerable amount of work on that, but it is certainly the question that has to be resolved to make this legislation effective. I want to alert the minister to concerns that are already there. They back once again, I guess, on the concerns over whether "consultation" means serious involvement of the workers in the training programs and the other aspects of this right-to-know legislation on hazardous materials.

"Don Fraser, the field representative for the Hamilton Workers Health Centre, says the basic component of the legislation—worker training—is ill-defined.

"The legislation doesn't set out the length or quality of the worker training, so there's no doubt you're going to have uneven levels of training in the country."

"The national program requires hazardous materials to be labelled and accompanied by material safety data sheets (MSDS) with more detailed information. Mr. Fraser says there are specific guidelines for the sheets and labels, but not for the length of worker training.

"The workplace hazardous materials information system was initiated by the federal government, and the provinces will enforce it. Critics fear there will be difficulty with enforcement of worker training."

We are going to have to see what happens with this, but I can tell members it is a very genuine concern.

"There are 200,000 workplaces, they're not going to be able to check every one. Nothing will be done unless the worker complains to the Ministry of Labour and they comes in to check it out."

"Bob DeMatteo, health and safety officer of the union representing the provincial inspectors, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, agrees.

"The inspectors will come in and review the education activity and, since there are no hard-and-fast guidelines...the inspector will be asking himself, 'Should I write an order?'"

I know the minister says the inspectors are trained in WHMIS and this is not going to be a problem. If he will forgive me for being a bit of a

cynic, it is because of the problems we have had in terms of enforcement in the whole field of health and safety, something the minister knows very well. We are entering a new field here.

"The federal bill, passed in June 1987, governs suppliers and importers of hazardous chemicals. Complementary provincial amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act spell out the employers' responsibilities.

"Linda Jolley, director of health and safety for the Ontario Federation of Labour, is confident more employers will make an effort to comply with the program because they had input." I think she may be right on that.

"But she says the program is only a first step in the greater quest for information about long-term effects of chemical exposure.

"We want to know what these chemicals are doing to people in the long run. What good is the right to know when there's nothing to know?"

"If there isn't information about the long-term effects of a chemical, the supplier isn't required to test it to find out.

"There will be a lot of material safety data sheets with blanks where the information isn't available," said Mr. Fraser..." when he was commenting on this.

"Don Hall, the WHMIS co-ordinator for the Ontario government, says testing was just one of the concessions made when the program was being planned.

"Look, you're going to put everybody out of business if you're going to require every one of those substances to be tested. Some of these are going to be long-term tests. It's not something we can put into a machine and read out."

That is an easy answer. It is a general answer that we have had on so many things. Most of us feel very strongly that testing should be done on the large number of new chemicals that will be hitting the workplace in advance of their entrance into the workplace.

These are concerns that I am well aware have been articulated with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) on this particular issue and that the labour people are certainly looking to for quick, not slow, action on some of the amendments that will be needed to the Occupational Health and Safety Act that will correct some of the shortcomings in the national legislation. In particular, I cannot overemphasize that the consultation process in setting up the training programs is what is required.

There is one other comment that I want to make about this particular bill because I think it is important. I will not go into it all, because it is a

sideline, I guess, but it deals directly with the WHMIS legislation. It is my concern over the wire that we raised in this House that was sent from Washington to American embassies in this country where, in effect, they were complaining about the WHMIS legislation that we were proceeding with in this country.

I know the minister has said here provincially that it is not a concern, because—I am not sure what his comments were—it is not going to stop us from proceeding. I am convinced that the federal government could not have backed off at this stage either in this legislation, given the eight or nine years that we have been involved in putting it together. I think it is a clear indication of what is going to happen, particularly in future, when we decide we want to take an initiative that is not necessarily exactly what business welcomes with open arms.

There are, I think, a few paragraphs out of this particular wire that was sent to American embassies in Ottawa, Brussels and Geneva:

"Subject: Implementation of Canadian labelling regulations known as WHMIS....Call for technical consultations.

"I. Action requested:

"A. Ottawa: Please transmit the following message to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the Minister of Labour, the chairman of the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission and other appropriate government of Canada officials."

If that is not bad enough, they go on to say:

"B....Please bring contents of this message to the attention of...Garvey and Von Osvath...Del Bino, and note that European countries exporting to Canada will face the same problems as US companies.

"C. London: Transmit to health and safety executive Don Rolt, and note that British companies exporting to Canada will face the same problems as US companies.

"D. Other posts: Deliver a copy of these comments to the appropriate host government or international officials dealing with exports to Canada.

"E. Please report back to...Fuller, USTR, Washington, the date the message was delivered and to whom (name, organization, address and telephone/telex numbers).

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"2. The government of the United States presents its compliments to the government of Canada and wishes to call attention to the serious concern it has with certain aspects of the new Canadian workplace hazardous materials infor-

mation system (WHMIS) which GOC will implement on October 31, 1988. WHMIS, which is in some aspects similar to the US hazard communication standard, establishes a system of hazard communication for chemical products and mixtures manufactured or imported into Canada, based on labelling, material safety data sheets (MSDS) and worker training. Components of these regulations were proposed in September 1987 and published in final form on January 30, 1988. Other major components affecting the filing of claims for the protection of confidential business information, trade secrets and the operations of the Hazardous Materials Information Review Commission will not be published until July 1988, at the earliest. This will not give US manufacturers and exporters adequate time to understand and comply with these new requirements."

There are a number of other paragraphs, all of which are very interesting, that I will not cover, but I think probably one or two more would be useful to put on the record.

"3. A Canadian MSDS must be created when the product exhibits one or more of the hazard characteristics and/or contains any of the more than 1,700 specific and nonspecific controlled (listed) products. The specific identity of the chemicals and their concentrations would also have to appear on the MSDS. This presents a special concern with regard to the trade secret provisions of WHMIS, since prior substantiation of trade secrets is required even if no challenge is made to the claim or if no outside request is made for the information.

"The potential here is for the burden of proof to substantiate trade secret claims on hundreds of thousands of products to fall on manufacturers of products being exported to Canada as well as on Canadian manufacturers. These claims would have to be resubstantiated every three years. The internal costs associated with developing the materials necessary to meet the unique criteria established under WHMIS could be prohibitive for many speciality mixtures produced in small volume.

"There is also a proposal to impose a fee structure for the government's review and processing of the original and any reassertion of each trade secret claim, plus a significant additional fee to appeal an unfavourable decision or defend against any third-party appeal, no matter how frivolous it may be. We understand that figures currently being discussed are in the range of a \$1,000 base, plus \$100 per additional ingredient or MSDS and \$20,00 per appeal.

Many industries, such as the flavour and fragrance industries, rely heavily on their abilities to maintain secrecy of formulas. They routinely have several hundred ingredients in a formulation, some of which they may have obtained from outside vendors themselves. The costs of pulling together the necessary documentation and filing a single claim will be significant. Multiply this by the hundreds of thousands of compounds formulated annually, and the cost could be...a...nightmare for the Canadian government.

"H. The WHMIS labelling requirements are very precise and rigid in their detail and contain some unique symbols. All symbols, including those that resemble existing UN or EC agreed symbols are required to be enclosed in a circle. This requirement is unique to WHMIS and would require the relabelling of all containers. The standards (i.e., what is flammable, reactive, carcinogenic, irritating, etc. and what specific test methods are required) for defining hazardous products are not always consistent with current US and EC standards."

I will leave the next couple of paragraphs. I think this is the last one that is of some importance in this particular wire:

"...Loss of international competitiveness and a loss of jobs.' If US exporters do not meet the new WHMIS requirements this forecast could become reality in Canada. Some US manufacturers have already indicated that they may choose to eliminate exports to Canada rather than risk divulging trade secret information or investing significant funds in substantiating trade secret claims or developing new MSDSs."

I think this one is key:

"Chapter 6 of the proposed Canadian-United States free trade agreement (FTA) extols each party 'to the greatest extent possible...[to] make compatible its standards, related measures and procedures....' The 'standstill' provisions of that agreement commit us both to exercise discretion in the period prior to entry into force so as not to jeopardize the approval process or undermine the general spirit and mutual benefits of the FTA. The pending implementation of WHMIS will unfortunately not be consistent with the standstill provision of the spirit of FTA."

Now, I am not sure that that is factual. As a matter of fact, I do not think there is a problem, because of when it started under the standstill provisions. The point I am making in all of this is that if we had not reached the stage where it is passed, where it is now being put in effect as of yesterday in every province in Canada, that kind

of pressure exerted a little earlier might have given us real problems; and it is a clear indication of what we can expect from the US under the terms of the FTA, not only the pressure from the United States but efforts to clearly line up governments and other nations to put the pressure on us so that we do not bring in basic legislation that protects the workers' right to know what kind of hazardous materials they are working with, something we have been eight years in working on in this particular country.

I raise that wire only to alert all members of this House. If they had not already realized what some of the consequences of the FTA are, I think you get a classic example in that wire, which was shot out just a couple of weeks ago to US embassies all over the world.

Once again, Linda Jolley of the Ontario Federation of Labour tells me that she thinks she has an assurance from the minister about the problem I referred to, and that is the fact that sometimes the computers do not work too well in a dusty or dirty workplace, and hard information sheets are going to have to be available, not just locked into the office of the general foreman, who may work only certain days of the week or certain hours. I believe that commitment has been given. It is necessary in order to give any meaning to this legislation, and I trust that is going to be the procedure the minister will follow and that he can assure us of.

The other thing is the point I made in some detail at the beginning. We are going to have to have additional amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act that take care of some of the concerns, particularly just what is involved in worker training and the consultation process, which are not clearly defined now. Even his own ministry people say that that is a bit of a problem at this point in time. I hope we will see that legislation and see it in this House very, very quickly.

With those kinds of understandings, we recognize the long fight for this and the necessity of this kind of labelling information, and we are pleased to support this particular bill.

M. Pope: Monsieur le Président, cela me fait plaisir de faire des commentaires au sujet du projet de loi 180. En tant que membre du caucus du Parti progressiste-conservateur, cela me fait plaisir d'indiquer au ministre du Travail (M. Sorbara) que nous sommes d'accord avec ce projet de loi. Les membres du caucus ont donné leur approbation à ce projet de loi la semaine passée.

On connaît les détails de ce projet de loi, à cause du fait que nous, en tant que membres

de l'ancien gouvernement progressiste-conservateur ici en Ontario, nous avons participé à des assemblées, à des réunions où tous les gouvernements provinciaux et fédéral ont discuté de ce projet de loi et du principe selon lequel on devrait avoir un tel système dans chaque région du Canada.

J'aimerais noter surtout que ce projet de loi est vraiment une politique nationale, avec la participation de chaque gouvernement provincial et du gouvernement du Canada avec d'autres projets de loi dans chaque province. Ici, c'est un projet de loi national. J'aimerais souligner qu'il est important d'avoir des règlements et des dispositions dans ces projets de loi qui soient semblables dans chaque province du Canada.

Alors, pourquoi le ministre du Travail a-t-il stipulé dans ce projet de loi que seul l'anglais sera la langue de notification? Pourquoi ne pas utiliser les deux langues officielles du Canada, si c'est vraiment un projet de loi national, avec les deux langues officielles du Canada et les mêmes détails que dans le projet de loi du gouvernement du Québec, en français et en anglais, et le même projet de loi dans chaque province canadienne?

J'aimerais avoir la réponse du Ministre au sujet de cette suggestion que nous avons faite en tant que Parti progressiste-conservateur. Je pense que les ministres ont peut-être discuté de ce problème dans les assemblées qu'ils ont eues avant l'introduction de ces projets de loi.

1550

It is a great pleasure to rise and support in principle this bill the minister has introduced. Truly it is the product of a national consensus and a lot of hard work over a number of years. I have to say that provincial governments, organized labour and major employer groups have all had a role in this. Not only that, I think the project is needed for individual workers.

I have a younger brother who works in a resource company in my home town of Timmins and who on a daily basis works with chemical substances. He was concerned about this project when we discussed it yesterday, as are many other individual workers on a nonorganized basis across Ontario who see this as a sign of progress we should all applaud.

I would indicate, in giving our general support to this project of the minister, that we are aware of the general support of major industrial groups in this province. We are aware of the fact that many major employers in this province have already started to implement WHMIS and have been doing so for some months and are

committed to making it work. We have verified that over the past week and a half.

We are also aware that organized labour, while suggesting some improvements, as the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) has raised today, are generally in a co-operative spirit of trying to make this work or look upon this as a good beginning to needed improvements in the workplace.

We are also aware of some concerns raised by the small business community as to how it can catch up with the major employers who have already begun to implement this program and what the cost of that catch-up and implementation will be to the small business community across Ontario. I think it is something the minister may have alluded to but which I think bears more amplification by the minister when he replies to our comments.

We are also aware of some concern by some Canadian companies about the effects of this legislation across Canada on the issue of patents, intellectual property and trade secrets. We think that matter can best be handled by representatives of those firms with some expertise in the intellectual property field and that they can indeed protect themselves through the normal legal channels. However, we perhaps will be hearing more about that in the coming months as this system is fully implemented.

I am aware of Mr. Yeutter's telegram or concerns with respect to the trade issue. This is not the first time, both before and after the trade agreement with the United States, that the US government has passed comment on provincial and federal programs and proposed laws. It has happened before with respect to stumpage fees, it has happened before with respect to agricultural legislation and it will happen after the trade agreement is implemented.

Nothing has changed whatsoever. The American government in the past has made comment on these kinds of things and will do so again. The trade agreement has no bearing one way or the other on the ability or the desire of any other government anywhere in this world, from time to time through its embassy, to pass comment or pass on messages of concern to provincial and federal governments. Anyone who has been in provincial government for any period of time knows that to be the case.

I remember when we were putting in a daily fishing fee in the international waterways in northwestern Ontario that the United States embassy in Ottawa contacted us expressing concern over the regulations we were passing. I

remember discussion in the United States Senate about it. This was well before any trade agreement. Do not tell me that because there is some trade agreement, magically these concerns are going to stop or magically these concerns are going to start. It is neither here nor there, and what is wrong with our best customer making comment from time to time on matters that do affect—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I call that more than comment.

Mr. Pope: The minister may call it more than comment if he wishes; that is up to him. The fact of the matter is it happened well before the trade agreement and it is going to happen again, with or without the trade agreement.

I am glad the minister is nodding approval that it will happen with or without the trade agreement in the future, which is precisely the point I was making. Since the minister has agreed with me, I can leave that point.

I hope the Ontario government is taking, and quite rightfully taking, the position that we in this province and other provinces and the national government obviously consider their opinions, but we are moving anyway to set a national system of standards, a national system for the workplace that we think is right for our country, for our province, and we intend to continue.

If the effect of putting that program into place is that some US manufacturers decide not to import their product into Canada, so be it. That is their economic decision to make as companies, whether they wish to participate in the Canadian market or not. That is their decision. I do not see how that is affected one way or the other by the trade agreement either.

I look forward to the day when we have North American standards that we find acceptable to all of us, including having some American jurisdictions match our improved standards in this province and in this country.

In fact, I look forward to the day when we have worldwide standards that will benefit every worker in every workplace around the world to provide the kind of protection that we find is necessary; and yes, I thought it was a visionary process when we first began it as a provincial government in the early 1980s.

With respect to the issue of trade secrets and patents and franchise issues, which I know have been raised on the commercial level as being of concern, these things, in spite of the contents of the telex to the embassies, can be protected by paying attention to the legislation or the jurisdictional requirements of Canada, the United States

and the European Community, by putting the necessary resources into guaranteeing or protecting your proprietary interest in intellectual property, be it patents or trademarks or whatever, and it is up to participants in the marketplace to engage the necessary professionals to make sure that happens.

I have checked with the various federal departments. They are aware of Mr. Yeutter's opinion. Nevertheless, they are anxious to proceed with this matter. They are anxious that we expedite passage of this matter through the Ontario Legislature. I have discussed this matter with people in Mr. Crosbie's office and with the federal Department of Labour office and they are anxious to support the Ontario government in this initiative, to pursue it vigorously, to get it through the Legislature and meet their national commitment that they gave to the working people of this country and to the provincial governments.

Therefore, I am pleased to stand and give, on behalf of the members of my caucus, our support in principle to this legislation, knowing that the minister will answer some of the inquiries we have raised with him.

Mr. Mackenzie: As I said, I do not think the federal government at this stage would have dared back off, but my friend and colleague from Timmins underlines a mistake you make when you do not read the entire wire—and I presume from his comments he has seen the entire wire—because the wire also very clearly asks for a hold or a delay of the legislation for at least six months, and also no proceeding without further direct consultation with the United States.

He may call that friendly advice. I call it much closer to a little bit of blackmail.

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Mr. Pope: I understand what the member for Hamilton East is saying. I think any government, as I say, has the right to comment and we have the right to consider its comments. The federal government, from my understanding, has considered the comments. I presume that the Minister of Labour has considered the comments and that everyone is proceeding. They are proceeding because we are committed to this as a national program.

The American government has been made aware of our intentions to proceed, and even in the context of a trade agreement between the United States and Canada, we feel it is necessary to proceed and we are proceeding. This consultation and expression of opinion is not unusual before or after the signing of a trade agreement

and will continue in the future. Obviously, we consider the opinions of our trading customers important to us, but we also put them in the context of advice.

When there is a national will to proceed with a program, we will proceed with it. I think the federal government has taken the reasonable approach that will be the guideline or the guiding light of how these issues are going to be treated in the future. In other words, occupational health and safety and the concerns for the working people of this country will not be abrogated or subject to any provisions of a free trade agreement. So some of the nonsense the federal Liberals are spreading is obviously nonsense.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It behooves me now to wrap up this debate on Bill 180. I have a very few comments to make. I hope my colleagues in the House will bear with me. If members have listened to the tone of this debate and the remarks that have been made by both the member for Hamilton East and the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), behind their remarks we understand when we hear them say, "We support this initiative, we're in favour of this initiative, we look forward to the development of this initiative."

I think one really captures the dynamic of WHMIS, that above and beyond all the politics that we bring to this place and the politics that must be part of issues relating to the workplace, we have seen in WHMIS that governments, industry and working people, through their representatives, have come together to solve some problems.

We have heard about the telex from Clayton Yeutter. Those who have paid attention to the debate about WHMIS have heard about all the roadblocks. What we are celebrating here today as we pass this bill is a system of giving workers the right to know about what they are dealing with, which is, as the member for Cochrane South perhaps suggests, a model for the entire world.

The co-operation that has existed in this project is something to emphasize once again as we proceed to wind up this debate on second reading, move the bill forward and put it in the statute books, because that co-operation can really be a model as we take on other issues that challenge us, not only perhaps in the area of health and safety, but other workplace issues as well.

Just to respond to the comments of the member for Hamilton East, I remember him asking me to forgive him for being a cynic. I can appreciate

that as he has watched this process develop, there were times that might have given rise to cynicism, particularly from his perspective, but I am glad that in this particular instance he is not allowing himself to be cynical. I know that his friends and my friends in the trade union movement have worked very hard to ensure we have put in place a system that will be to the advantage of all workplaces in the province and in the country.

He has asked me, and has reiterated it on a couple of occasions, about the issue surrounding the definition, the understanding of the words "consultation" and "implementation of training." I have said on more than one occasion that I understand that is the problem representatives of workers have with training right now. I can tell him I hope we can resolve that problem as we have resolved all the other problems that have confronted the WHMIS partners. For my part, I can tell him my directions to my own officials will be to take the same approach.

There was an issue he raised relating to the use of computers in the workplace. He suggested that I had made a commitment to Linda Jolley from the Ontario Federation of Labour. I do not recall a particular conversation, but once again we are starting down the WHMIS road. As of yesterday, WHMIS becomes a reality. We are not at the end of the process. We are at the beginning of a process that I think will be characterized throughout the years by co-operation dealing with these very problems that Linda Jolley, who I know has spent so much of her career on health and safety issues in the workplace, raises as WHMIS comes to be implemented.

I listened very carefully to the speech of the member for Cochrane South and the matters he raised in that speech.

Monsieur le Président, je veux simplement dire, au sujet de la langue du Système d'information sur les matières dangereuses utilisées au travail, que toutes les dispositions de la loi fédérale sont bilingues. Les étiquettes sur les matières dangereuses seront en français et en anglais. En Ontario, les fiches techniques santé-sécurité seront disponibles ou en français ou en anglais.

C'est un système pour tout le Canada. Au Canada, on parle anglais et français, et je suis sûr que nous pouvons répondre aux francophones, en Ontario et partout au Canada, en français. Je veux assurer le député de Cochrane-Sud (M. Pope) que le développement du SIMDUT est un processus qui respecte très bien et très

fortement les dispositions bilingues partout au Canada.

My friend the member for Cochrane South also talked about questions relating to the free trade agreement. I think I did see him acknowledge that perhaps the free trade agreement will not be a reality after November 21. I am glad he is acknowledging that because those who are fighting this agreement in Canada and trying to keep this nation from going down that route seem to be meeting with greater success with each passing day, working towards November 21.

But all of that stuff aside, what we are here to celebrate today is a great accomplishment by working people, a great accomplishment by industrial leaders and a great accomplishment, I should say, by legislators as well. I want to end on the note that we have great accomplishments by legislators. My friend the member for Cochrane South mentioned that this initiative had its origins during, as we call them, the bad old Tory days. That is correct. There was a lot of work done during that period, developing the foundations for WHMIS. I think within my own speeches on WHMIS and the speeches of other legislators, we have perhaps forgotten to acknowledge that on behalf of legislators, people within ministries of labour all over Canada and the federal Department of Labour and other federal departments and other provincial ministries have worked very hard to make this a reality.

I want to end by offering my heartfelt gratitude and by expressing my deep gratitude to people within the Ontario Ministry of Labour who really are the ones who have worked so hard to make WHMIS a reality. Those of us who are legislators, those of us who are politicians, often take far too much credit for accomplishments of governments. These are great accomplishments, but they have been accomplished because so many people have worked so hard to make this day a reality.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for third reading.

1610

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

LOI MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LES ACCIDENTS DU TRAVAIL (suite)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

Mr. Pope: I began my speech the other day by adjourning the debate, so I would like to begin—

Mr. Dietsch: That was the best part. Don't start again.

Mr. Pope: One of my better efforts; I know. There are a number of issues I would like to discuss, as the newly appointed Labour critic for our party, with respect to Bill 162. I do not claim to have the experience of working for the Workers' Compensation Board, but I do claim to have experience, over eleven and a half years, with constituents, many of whom have had problems with the workers' compensation system.

In fact, I have over 4,000 workers' compensation files in my constituency offices that I have worked on from time to time; on many, two and three times over the course of years. From the point of view of working with claimants, men and women who have problems obtaining compensation that is due to them, and from the point of view of my experience of how the workers' compensation system has worked and is now working in the field, I think perhaps I can add something to this debate.

First, with respect to our party, for which I am proud to be the Labour critic, we are anxious to have a full and detailed response from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) with respect to the questions and issues raised by previous speakers on this bill. The position of our party with respect even to support of this bill in principle will depend on the response of the minister to those issues and those questions.

I can say to the minister that so far we are not satisfied with his answers. We do not think enough detail has been provided to the members of this Legislature. We do not think enough assurances have been given to working men and women in this province with respect to how the new system that is contemplated by Bill 162 will affect them as claimants or as potential claimants in the future. We think the working men and women of this province have the right to have these things answered now and not have to rely on general assurances or general clauses in legislation.

Because we all know so much of the detail of the problems people have when they are injured in the workplace and when they have diseases or sicknesses arising out of the workplace, and the problems working people have with the system in getting answers, we think the minister owes it to them and to all the people of this province to give full, detailed and complete responses to the kinds of things members of the opposition, and I trust

members of the Liberal Party will be raising during debate on second reading. We look forward to hearing them, and we expect them to be forthcoming, from the Minister of Labour before we vote on second reading.

We agree with the request that has been made by the members of the New Democratic Party for full public hearings on this legislation. That has been the tradition when amendments have been made to workers' compensation legislation in this House. There have been full hearings and study, with everyone being given a full and complete opportunity not only to talk directly to the minister and the members of this Legislature but also to address the points of view given by others who have expressed opinions on this legislation.

Specifically with respect to the consultation process that the minister has engaged in to date, we are not yet convinced by the minister's words or actions that the consultation has been as full and complete as we were first led to believe. We would like the minister, prior to a vote on second reading, to give us full and complete details of what consultations took place, what meetings took place and what written communications took place with representatives of groups or organizations for injured workers, with individual organized labour organizations and unorganized labour groupings, with respect to employers small and large and their various organizations; what meetings were held, on what dates, who was present, what was the agenda for the meetings; and please produce the minutes from those meetings so we can review in detail exactly what consultations took place with regard to what aspects of Bill 162.

We think that is necessary and appropriate for the minister, in proposing these kinds of major changes, to produce for the members of the Legislature. We are told by some representatives acting on behalf of the injured workers of this province that there were not meaningful consultations with respect to certain key issues, that there was no opportunity to address what ultimately became the contents of this bill, that there was no opportunity to address the points of view being raised by other organizations who were making submissions. We are told by representatives for injured workers that there was unequal access and involvement in the discussion of the principles of this bill and how this bill would affect or impact the compensation system in this province. We ask the minister to please provide, before second reading is completed, the details of these consultations.

Quand j'ai discuté de ce projet de loi vendredi dernier, à Mattice et à Hearst, avec les membres des familles Fillion, Germaine LaRouge et tous les autres travailleurs de Hearst, de Timmins et de la circonscription de Cochrane-Sud, ils ont indiqué plusieurs fois les problèmes avec l'administration du système de compensation des travailleurs de la province de l'Ontario.

Ils ont indiqué que les problèmes sont pires maintenant qu'avant: Il y a plus de délais pour obtenir des réponses, par écrit et par téléphone. Il y a eu un manque d'informations, d'ordinateurs et de systèmes d'ordinateurs à la Commission des accidents du travail, ici en Ontario. Nous avons des dossiers dans les bureaux régionaux de Sudbury, des dossiers à Toronto et des dossiers qui n'existent dans aucun des bureaux de la Commission des accidents du travail. Nous avons des bureaux régionaux qui sont vraiment la source de confusion et la source de problèmes pour les travailleurs. Nous avons des bureaux régionaux qui sont plus difficiles d'accès que le bureau de Toronto.

Nous avons des problèmes d'ordre administratif, et il en reste encore, avec l'hôpital de réhabilitation à Downsview, des problèmes qui n'ont été résolus ni par le Gouvernement ni par le Tribunal d'appel des accidents du travail. Nous manquons de programmes de réhabilitation dans quelques régions de l'Ontario, et certainement un manque de programmes de réhabilitation pour les travailleurs à Downsview.

Nous avons un conflit de notes de service et de papiers entre les bureaucraties du Tribunal d'appel et de la Commission des accidents du travail, un conflit qui s'est accentué au cours des deux dernières années. Nous avons maintenant des délais dans le processus d'obtenir de la compensation, avec les officiers ainsi qu'avec le Tribunal d'appel. Tous ces problèmes — les travailleurs de l'Ontario l'ont bien indiqué — existent et continuent toujours pour eux; il n'y a aucune résolution du tout, et vraiment, il y a beaucoup de travailleurs en Ontario qui pensent qu'on a plus besoin d'une amélioration de l'administration que d'un nouveau projet de loi.

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All of these issues for injured workers in this province are the real concerns being expressed on a weekly basis to me as a member of provincial parliament, and to every single member of this Legislature from all political parties: trying to find the file that is in transit between Toronto and Sudbury; trying to get Sudbury on the phone; six-month delays in getting answers; confusion and bureaucracy; confrontation between the

Workers' Compensation Board and the appeals tribunal; the continuing inadequacies of Downsview; the lack of a meaningful regional rehabilitation strategy that exists still for the people of different regions of the province; a computer system that no longer even tells local employees where the file is located, let alone what decision has been made on it; delays from even local staff of the Workers' Compensation Board itself in getting answers with respect to rehabilitation programs, assessments and payments of compensation cheques to people who months ago have received a positive decision from the board.

These things have been enunciated time and time again by members of this Legislature. The minister has been written to about them time and time again and the problems continue unabated.

The minister has received mail on this. Here is a letter, September 29, 1988, from a Toronto law firm. It talks about a hearing on a matter being held on July 27, 1987. It was an appeal from a decision of the board to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal. The panel hearing the decision reserved its decision and requested the medical liaison officer of the tribunal to obtain and submit a medical report to the tribunal to assist the panel in reaching a decision.

The medical report was obtained on January 5, 1988. A further report was sent on January 18, 1988. Then there was some discussion of the findings on March 4, 1988, and no decision and no communication from the appeals tribunal since that date, despite repeated calls to the tribunal. We are talking about a lady who needs that compensation pension to survive and who has not had an answer from a hearing that was held 15 months ago, when medical information was provided 10 months ago. In the meantime, this lady gets no pension, no satisfaction from this system, no help.

The minister and Dr. Elgie, chairman of the board, have received letters from employers' representatives and workers' representatives about the inefficiency, about the cancellation of appointments two and three times, including cancellation of appointments for permanent disability ratings, and rating interviews that are cancelled while the people are waiting in the outer offices of the board for the actual interview to take place.

There are delays of five and six months with respect to hearing officers' decisions, and then there are the integrated service units, on their own, reviewing hearing officers' decisions, delaying the issuance of hearing officers' decisions and trying to overrule hearing officers'

decisions when they were not present and when it is the hearing officers who, under law, are to interpret the policies of the board.

After the hearing has been held, after the hearing officer has made a decision, the decision is not given to the claimant. That claimant has to wait while the internal bureaucracy of the Workers' Compensation Board fights it out.

That is why more and more people in this province think that, more than an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act, we need changes in the administration of the program and a real political commitment to roll up the sleeves of the minister and get him right in there into the nuts and bolts of the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board to make it work better.

I have had the same complaints from employer groups that cannot get answers about reassessments, cannot get explanations about work histories or accident histories that are leading to reassessments and cannot get answers on specific claimants. They get no co-operation at all when they try to have a review of their assessment rating or the experience rating or the classification they are put into.

One lady, in fact, wrote to the minister and indicated that her compensation payable for a live-in babysitter was 735 per cent more than the compensation assessment rating for workers who worked in a nursery school and in day care centres. There was no answer at all to this very tough economic problem some employers are facing with respect to assessment ratings and with respect to work histories.

It is not all one-sided. It is on both sides and the minister knows it. He is deluged by letters. I am not trying to indicate that it lies on the shoulders of this minister, that all of these problems magically appeared in the last six months. Some of the problems are endemic in the system. They go back for years. They have to be addressed.

The frustration out there is growing. The delays are growing. They are greater now, I can tell the minister. I represent injured claimants in Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal hearings and in hearing officer hearings. They are greater. They are growing greater every month. It is getting impossible to get anyone to come up to Timmins to have a hearing. We have been waiting for more than a year for appeals tribunal hearings and hearing officer hearings with respect to lung cancer claims and there is still no indication of any potential future hearing date.

The system is sinking in bureaucracy, in memos, in internal confrontation and controversies, in people studying one another over there.

In the meantime, injured workers and employers are watching it all and seeing their assessments go through the roof, and seeing the economic consequences on working people and employers not being addressed by this government.

During the course of this debate, we in this party and I suspect the New Democratic Party would like the minister of the day to address in detail these kinds of issues and indicate clearly the principles and thoughts he has, not only about this amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act but how he is going to make it work better for all participants in the Workers' Compensation Board.

We know from the amount of mail he is getting that he must have addressed this, that he must have contemplated these issues as minister, and that he must have contemplated his personal involvement in resolving these issues, not leaving it only to the chairman of the board, not leaving it only to the chairman of the appeals tribunal, not leaving it to a department of his ministry, but addressing it directly and personally as the minister who must be responsible for this system in the Legislature of Ontario and ultimately, as Minister of Labour, to the people of the province.

There is no doubt that in the consultations the minister had with representatives and injured workers and representatives of employer groups and small business, the minister has been told by all of the growing concern over the unfunded liability issue with the Workers' Compensation Board.

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According to the minister's own 1987 annual report, the Ontario Workers' Compensation Board unfunded liability has increased from the amount of \$518,018,000 in 1975 through to \$5,380,802,000 in 1985—

Mr. Fleet: You mean we inherited the problem.

Mr. Pope: —growing to \$6,690,658,000 in 1987, and estimated by the minister—listen to this Lord Fleet of Swansea—estimated by 1989 to go to from between \$9 billion and \$10 billion.

An average rate of assessment, which in 1975 was \$1.65 per \$100 of assessable payroll, going up at an average rate of 10 per cent per year, is now \$2.88 for every \$100 of assessable payroll.

I think the minister should be addressing these issues that have been raised with him. If he wants to give the assurance to the people of this province, to the employers and workers of this province and to this Legislature that the unfunded liability next year will not be \$9 billion to \$10

billion, I presume he will rise in reply and read into the record the number he has been given by his staff as the prediction for the unfunded liability.

Which reminds me, I would ask the minister prior to the vote on second reading for this bill to table with this House all of the economic impact studies which I know he has at his disposal, which were considered by him when he was preparing this legislation, and brought it before cabinet and introduced it in this House. I say that because from my own experience every legislative initiative brought through cabinet for introduction contains an economic impact study. Therefore, it must exist for the minister to have proceeded to introduction of this bill.

I think we are entitled to see that, because I am told that the minister has given the assurance to certain employer groups that the pension provisions of this legislation are neutral. They are neutral in terms of their economic impact on contributors, and I presume in terms of their economic impact for injured workers. I would like to see the economic impact studies vis-à-vis the employers of this province and the economic impact studies vis-à-vis the injured workers of this province. Let us see the detail and variations of estimates that have been given to the minister, which he considered when he introduced this legislation.

For the minister to say that it is economically neutral to employer groups, I presume that he would have some background or some basis for saying it. So far I understand he has not shared it with anyone.

Injured worker representatives are expressing some concern about whether or not, there will be a reduction in pension benefits as a result of the amendments proposed by the Minister of Labour.

I am saying that the economic impact is an issue out there. There is some unease about the economic impact of this legislation from both sides. The minister owes it to everyone involved, including the members of this Legislature, to give more than vague assurances. I think we have the right to examine the economic projections or predictions that his experts have given him, on the basis of which he introduces this legislation.

As I said when the minister was not here, we would like the minister to address these issues with respect to administration, with respect to the financial impacts of this bill, with respect to the administration of the compensation system under this bill. Even without this bill, we would like his assurances that he is going to get involved in this

and clean it up, make it more efficient and ensure that injured workers get proper benefit coverage. We would like to have his assurance, and some detail to his assurance, that it is neutral in terms of economic implications on the employers of this province.

With respect to the pension issues, we are aware of the concerns with respect to Bill 162 that have been brought to the minister's attention by representatives of the Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation. We are also aware of the concerns that have been addressed to this minister in a document entitled Bill 162: A Major Attack on Rights, Benefits and Services for Injured Workers.

We are aware of the concerns that have been expressed by both groups to the minister about the economics of his dual award system, of his pension reform, as he puts it. We are aware of the concerns of some employers about the problems for small businesses in adapting to these changes, whether or not reinstatement is a feasible option for them.

We are aware of the concerns of the injured workers whether or not we have a meat chart reborn under a different name called "noneconomic loss benefit." We are aware of the concerns of both employers and injured workers over the lack of sufficient definition in section 45 for noneconomic loss benefits. We are aware of the concern of younger workers and older workers over the calculation formula contained in the minister's proposal.

We are concerned over the fact that the Workers' Compensation Board will determine the degree of permanent impairment, over the rights of an injured worker to apply for reassessment of the degree of impairment, over who ultimately will make that decision and on what basis, over the fact that noneconomic loss may be payable by lump sum and what that means with respect to future assessments of a noneconomic loss.

We are aware of the concerns, under loss of future earnings benefit, over the fundamental concern of injured workers or claimants under the workers' compensation system as to whether or not they are giving up the basic security of a permanent disability pension for something that may be reassessed every two and three years, at the discretion of the board, throwing them into a constant round of reassessments, delays, cancelled benefits and appeals.

We are aware of the problems employers have with the uncertainty that system can create in terms of the availability of injured workers for

re-employment and rehabilitation. We are very concerned, and I am most concerned I must say to the minister, with respect to his rehabilitation programs. I do not think it is right or appropriate that the only requirement of the board is to have an assessment done in 45 days.

I have dealt with the rehabilitation branch of the Workers' Compensation Board over 11 years. I know what an assessment report is. I know the process. I have seen the results. An assessment does not rehabilitation make. What is required in this legislation if there is a real commitment to rehabilitation, which I hear employers' representatives and injured workers' groups express support for, what is really required is a statutory provision for a rehabilitation program, to be implemented fairly on a regionally equitable basis, considering all the limitations the board has refused to consider in the past in terms of re-employing an injured worker back in the workforce.

I am talking about assessments that say that someone is not capable of rehabilitation because he lives in a single-industry town, how someone is not able to participate in the rehabilitation program because he is a unilingual francophone or because he is too old or because his doctor says that he cannot sit down for eight hours at a college class. I am aware of these so-called limits that have denied injured workers in this province the right to be trained, to be upgraded and to be employed to become properly functioning members of our society, running their own livelihood for themselves and their families with some sort of economic security.

1640

I am aware of how the system has worked. I do not see anything in this legislation that is going to change that. I think there has to be a statutory requirement for a rehabilitation program that is equally available in every region of this province to every Ontarian, irrespective of linguistic background, irrespective of whether they come from a one-industry community or a major metropolitan centre.

I do not think it is good enough to tell people from Ramore that the rehabilitation program means they have to leave their families and work in a canoe factory in Wawa. I do not think it is appropriate to tell a miner, who even the board medical experts say has a lung condition indicative of silica exposure but he is not disabled enough not to work, that he will not have a rehabilitation program in place for a year and a half because the board has not sorted out its internal problems, and it does not know whether

or not it can upgrade him in a community college and get him employed in the office of the same mine that he worked for, even though the mining company wants him to.

I could go on, as could other members from all sides of this House, about how time and time again the rehabilitation program has fallen down, how services and sympathetic counselling are not available equally in the various regions of this province, how there is only one rehabilitation counsellor who can speak in the French language, how people do not get the same quality of upgrading because they come from a rural community and how people are not given transportation assistance and support to take basic upgrading courses in community colleges or through Employment and Immigration Canada. Case after case must be coming across this minister's desk on that. They must be.

Now, at a time when we are amending the Workers' Compensation Act and the workers' compensation system, there appears to be a strong consensus about the obligation of a pre-accident employer to re-employ and a strong consensus about our obligations as a society and as employers and as fellow workers to involve injured workers not just in assessments, not just in a paper chase, but in meaningful upgrading and rehabilitation programs which will result in full-time employment at a fair salary, at a pre-accident salary, for injured workers in this province. At a time when that consensus appears to exist, I do not see it reflected in legislation. I think it is time it was reflected in legislation.

If the minister wants to add a rider that it is 45 days after an assessment is taken or a permanent disability rating has taken place, or 45 days after the accident has taken place or 45 days after the injured worker has been discharged from hospital—those two, 45 days after an accident and 45 days after hospital discharge—if that is the criteria he wants to use, provided it is not Downsview rehabilitation centre, so be it. But make it the criteria for the implementation of a rehabilitation program, including the upgrading of community college courses, apprenticeship courses, re-employment and on-the-job training if necessary; a definitive, well-planned, current rehabilitation program that will immediately go into effect to start to rehabilitate the injured worker, getting her or him back into the workplace and earning a just and full salary that will allow her or him to become a contributing member of society.

Again, I have to say to the minister that I have seen too much of the opposite and too many

agencies circling around each other or referring these people, not for resolution of the issue within the workers' compensation system, not for addressing directly the issue to the federal government, not for contacting directly the Minister of Labour; too many agencies in all communities of this province, including the local offices of the Workers' Compensation Board, that say: "We cannot get anything out of the system. Go and see your member of provincial parliament."

After 12 years, 4,000 files and at least 10,000 contacts in my own riding, it is time for the minister to stand up and make some statutory changes that will bring true reform to the rehabilitation programs that are not working.

I am aware of the morale problems of the staff; I am not going to get into those. It is up to the minister to exert leadership, resolve some of these turf wars and disputes, lay down clear guidelines as to how the different branches of the Workers' Compensation Board are going to interact with one another. If he has day-to-day problems, Dr. Elgie and the minister have to sort them out—that is just the way it is when you are a minister of the crown—and get on with a true explanation of this bill, a true reform of the system, if he thinks it is necessary, by legislation, but more important, a true change in the administration of the system so that it will serve the people we all want to serve.

I know the minister wants to serve the injured workers of this province. He wants the system to work. The member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty) wants the system to work. He has spoken on it often. All members of all parties want to make it work.

It has been frustrating over a number of years for all members of all parties. I am not denying that and I do not claim to have any magical answer. All I know is we have this amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act. It is an opportunity for us as legislators once again to hear the people who are concerned about how this system is now operating and to try our level best to make the changes in law and in practice, to try our best to satisfy and resolve these problems.

It is in that spirit that I approach the legislation. As I said when the minister was out, our position with respect to second reading of the bill depends on the efforts of the minister, in good faith, to try to address the issues that have been raised, to table the documents we would like to see in reviewing the principles of this legislation.

We are prepared to face this with an open mind. We understand the genuine concern of the minister to improve the system. We want to make sure that we are actually improving the system with this series of amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. We hope the minister takes our remarks in this context and provides us with the answers. We look forward to a further debate on second and third reading of this bill.

Miss Martel: I want to commend the member for Cochrane South on his remarks, particularly his remarks as a member of this Legislature for 11 years who has had to deal with compensation on a daily basis. I certainly hope other members in this Legislature who are newer to this place will take some of what he said into mind when they consider this bill.

I do want to make a comment on the important point he made concerning rehabilitation, if I can go back to it, and say to the minister as well that he has had a golden opportunity here, in the light of the recommendations that came from Majesky and Minna to make some major changes in rehabilitation as it is presented at the Workers' Compensation Board.

Members will recall that the task force was made up of both employee and employer representatives, not just the workers' side of it. That group, representing both employers and employees, made major recommendations on how this system had to be changed in order to make rehabilitation meaningful and correct at the Workers' Compensation Board.

1650

We do not see anywhere in the bill the type of commitment that Majesky-Minna said the board, and indeed the Legislature of this province, had to make if we were going to make rehabilitation meaningful and not just a poor second cousin of the Workers' Compensation Board system.

I go back to the problem that rehabilitation is not guaranteed as a statutory right anywhere in this bill. That has been the major cause of the biggest problems and concerns at the Workers' Compensation Board for years now.

Certainly, when the minister had every opportunity, when he was going to be backed by employer and employee groups in this province on that basis, that should have been in this bill. There should be a statutory right for every worker who has suffered a serious injury and who is 30 days off the job to have total and full rehabilitation, and I certainly hope when the minister is looking at this section again he will give every consideration to that request.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just a brief comment on the comments of the member for Cochrane South. I am glad to hear that he and his party will be giving due consideration to the support of the bill. As he and his caucus colleagues undertake a further and closer examination of the legislation, I think they will see that the legislation is designed and will, when implemented, achieve the overriding objective of any fair, equitable system of worker compensation; and that is, to the greatest extent humanly possible, by such a social system to put the injured worker in the place that worker would have been in had the accident not happened.

All of our initiatives, and indeed the restructuring initiatives that are currently being contemplated by the board on vocational rehabilitation and the statutory provisions that are there in the bill are designed for that objective. Our statutory obligation on employers to re-employ are for that purpose. Our determination to raise the ceiling to a fair level so that all of the earnings of workers can be protected is for that objective and the new dual award system is also for that objective.

He does raise questions of administration, and I can tell him that although obviously I am not tackling real, substantial issues of administration in this bill, I have made a commitment and we are in the process of developing the questions that we need to be asking and a green paper will be presented by my ministry next year, in due course, to answer some of those questions as well.

But I tell him that we must get on with this reform so that we can make this process better and better for workers in this province.

M. Pope: Je sais que le docteur Elgie, le président de la Commission des accidents du travail de l'Ontario, a mis sur pied des programmes de réhabilitation qui datent du 12 septembre de cette année. Cela inclut des cliniques dans des communautés partout en Ontario. Cela n'existe pas encore dans quelques régions du Nord pour les travailleurs du Nord de l'Ontario. Il reste des problèmes de transport et le besoin des travailleurs du Nord de l'Ontario de se rendre à Downsview pour leur réhabilitation ainsi que pour des examens médicaux.

Ce n'est vraiment pas nécessaire, ce n'est pas juste et cela coûte cher. Nous avons des facilités de réhabilitation dans notre hôpital à Timmins et dans tous les hôpitaux de chaque communauté du Nord de l'Ontario. Il existe maintenant, dans ces communautés, des facilités de réhabilitation, mais il n'existe pas de système de réhabilitation dans le monde du travail pour donner des emplois

aux gens qui ont été blessés au travail. Cela, c'est nécessaire; ça, c'est la priorité à laquelle nous avons demandé au Ministre de s'adresser dans ce projet de loi: une garantie dans la loi non seulement d'un système de réhabilitation mais d'un système qui permettrait aux travailleurs de retourner au travail. C'est ça le plus important.

Mr. Haggerty: I rise today to speak on Bill 162, as I have in the past number of years in the Legislature, concerning workers' compensation and the amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act.

I want to thank the minister, first, for bringing in amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. If I can recall, back in 1970 on the revisions of the Mining Act, I had presented a motion to committee at that particular time to establish a workers' occupational health team, you might say, appointing the same number of persons from the industry and from employees so they would be able to sit down and discuss some of the areas of occupational health and injuries in the mining sector.

That resolution was carried to a certain degree and then it was opposed at the stage of third reading in the Legislature. But that was the beginning of my introduction to a new occupational health act for Ontario to cover persons who are working in a hazardous area in mines or any workplace in Ontario. Even at that time, I said that all hazardous chemicals should be catalogued so that even municipalities would be aware of the serious problems in case of an event. It also would provide some protection to, say, the firemen who had responded to an event at any time but also give protection to the worker in the workplace.

In 1976, I introduced a motion in committee dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Ministry of Labour, and that motion was passed. It dealt with establishing a comprehensive study relating to the Workmen's Compensation Board to deal with Canada pension plan benefits, with accident insurance, with criminal compensation and, taking all into consideration, even with liability insurance, particularly in-home liability insurance which covers a person if he is injured; even when you have a passenger in the car, they are insured and compensation is provided.

That resolution was accepted in committee. It was to reduce the cost of overlapping; in other words, a person would not be paying into about seven or eight different schemes and then, when he is down and out through injury, have to fight the whole system.

That was carried by the minister at that time, Bette Stephenson, and then she appointed two groups in this particular area to give this study. One that came out was the Wyatt Co. report, dealing with the financial difficulties facing the board and the financial administration of the board. The other was the Weiler report, and today Bill 162 follows many of the recommendations of the Weiler report, particularly the white paper of 1980, which was discussed in some detail by certain committee members dealing with it in standing committee. At times, I had the opportunity to fill in for other members who could not be there, so I do perhaps have some understanding of the intent of it.

This is what Weiler said: "Funding for the functions and the operational costs to carry out the intent of the Workers' Compensation Act...." It goes on to say, "The structure of benefits in the act should compensate for actual income loss as closely as is reasonably possible, in recognition of the fact that the statute denies workers the right to sue their employers for damages from occupational injuries."

I do not think we should lose sight of that fact, that the injured worker has not the right to sue the employer. You can have negligence within industries on the part of management that has neglected the responsibility, and there are many serious injuries that follow because of the negligence on the part of industry. In fact, some of the occupational health committees have suggested that changes be made in certain industries to reduce the number of accidents.

1700

I was interested, not too long ago, in a matter where they have these jogging switches in industries. Usually you will find them in some of the larger industries. When you are using a jogging switch, if I can put it that way, it is a touch-and-go switch so that you can start a mill up, for example, and stop it as quickly as you can start it.

It is okay if it works that way, but someplace along the line workers and persons responsible in the industry, the supervisors, will get their signals crossed. Sometimes it has happened where you have had the whole mill start up when it should not start up and, whether employees in a hazardous area are trapped in a machine or something of that nature, it can become a very serious problem.

There was an incident in Welland, a serious accident. After the event had occurred, it was not too long before safety inspectors came in from the ministry and changes were made in the

operations of these switches. You have to lock out the main switch, so that you can jog it only at a certain time. I suppose it worked out very well, because there had been a number of injuries in this particular industry.

I called a friend of mine who is with the Ministry of Labour. He is in London right now and he is a good friend of mine. We both worked in industry a few years ago. He was president of the union and I was chief steward. I was asking him if he has had any problems with it. He said: "Yes, we've got one that happened near London, in a quarry operation." He said the same thing, using a jogging switch. What happened here is that the signals got crossed up too. As the employee went in to change the plates in the crusher, someone had pushed the main switch just as he stuck his head in. It was like a guillotine.

These things still happen today in Ontario, even with safety committees, because perhaps the inspection is not out there, there are not enough of them around. I do not know. But anyway, I bring that to the members' attention, that I had some major concerns about it. But I want the members of the House here to look at what Weiler had said. He said they lose the right to sue their employers, even in negligence cases.

Sometimes, as in this particular case, no doubt about it, charges are laid by the ministry. There will be a fine of \$2,000 or \$3,000, whatever it may be, but it does not help the family that has lost a breadwinner or the person who has received a severe injury. Really, when I look at the \$65,000 there and the numbers that come up and, "This is what we'll pay in case you have further difficulties over a period of a year," if you had a right to sue, you would probably go to the civil courts and win an award where \$100,000 is given for pain alone.

This happens in almost every liability case that is taken to the courts. I suggest that when you look at the \$65,000, is it really high enough for the period and the cause of grief, for the person who may have to give up certain community activities and even part of his family lifestyle? When you look at it, \$65,000 is not much when you lose the right to sue. That is the point.

The second point is that Weiler said, "Because compensation is at best a poor substitute for the prevention and only a temporary and partial alternative to being re-employed, the board efforts in this area of accident prevention and rehabilitation should be expanded." I am glad that in this bill it is being expanded, but the question is, who interprets the act? The act may

spell it out here, but when it gets down to the Workers' Compensation Board it is a different story, because you probably have 500 or 600 persons down there, all with different interpretation of the act. I think a previous member who was speaking indicated that the minister should outline these in detail to the House, to get a clear understanding.

Back in 1968 or 1967 when I came into the House, I was representing my first case in workmen's compensation—a matter where a volunteer fireman had lost his life; he was just going to a practice—and it was turned down, so I went back into the statutes and the act and the intent of what the minister had said at that time. The minister was Charles Daley, and he said as long as the volunteer fireman was commanded to attend a certain event in regards to fire practice or to a fire, he should be covered. When I went back with that, the case was won, because the volunteer fireman was ordered to be at a certain firehall by radio communications—good thing they had it at that time—and he was covered then.

In 1968, working for a problem of occupational health—and we can talk about silicosis, asbestos and cancer, a carcinogenic material used in the workplace—I was one of those responsible for bringing in the first claim for sinus cancer in Ontario. It was a tough task, but I got some good expert help from the medical profession on it, which helped me quite a bit.

We talk about the injuries that we see today. I think of a young policeman in Niagara region. His claim number is 13229845. I will not give the name, but he passed away in just the last two or three months.

I will tell you, it was not that major an accident. He was directing traffic and somebody with a small car ran over his foot and it was a little bit sore, so he went to the St. Catharines hospital and had X-rays taken. The doctor said there was nothing there. He said, "A big guy your size should have no problem with it at all." He had a tear in his trousers and there was a slight contusion there, just a fracture of the skin. The doctor said there was no problem there.

Six months after that, the policeman could not work. He did not have the strength to do anything. He was short of breath and experts in this area—we have the good Shaver Hospital for Chest Diseases in St. Catharines, one of the best known in respiratory diseases—said it was chronic bronchitis. That was the diagnosis.

He felt a little bit better, they had given him some medication, and he went back to work. He could not handle the motorcycle any more, but

they tried to get him something behind the desk. He could not even do that. His health just started to go down. Finally, the family had a Christmas party and he was there at home and he did not feel too well, so he went to the bathroom and passed out and hit his head on the sink or something. Anyway, he was rushed to the hospital.

Good thing his family physician was there. He looked at the colour of the person and he said, "This is no place for him here. Take him right out to Hamilton," the McMaster Medical Centre there.

There was a good doctor there, Dr. Turpie, one of the best haematologists, one of the best in blood diseases. Examining, he knew right off the bat what the cause of his health problems was. Through nuclear medical science, they found out what the difficulty was. He went back to him and asked him, "Did you ever have any other injury to your leg?" He was under heavy medication and he said he could not give him the answer, so he talked to his wife. She said "Yes, remember your trousers were torn and you had the black and blue spot on the calf of your leg?" He went back and told the doctor and he said, "That's where your problem is."

That caused a blood clot and it wedged right between the lung and the main artery. If you looked at the medical reports, you would see that he was a living time bomb—a matter of time. The case was established then, when he had good medical reports, but what a struggle, what a harassment and what difficulty it was to get through to the board on it. At least his wife has a pension now, whatever it may be, and the two children are protected under workers' compensation.

The point I am trying to drive home is that no matter how small that injury is, it should not be neglected by the board or by the plant doctors or any of them, because you never can tell what it will lead to.

1710

I could go on and on, but we are dealing with this particular section of the bill. We talk about the loss of wage versus disability percentage. If you look at it, that white paper—this is from the Weiler report—goes on to tell you about full-time employees and the disability. It gives the average all the way through. As a person gets older, advances from 10 years to 20 years, the rate goes up. The wage loss can run anywhere from 13.7 per cent to as high as 40.8 per cent.

Then it comes to the part-time employees. At 10 years, the average wage loss is 62.8 per cent. That is the first one and then it goes down. The

average breaks out to as high as 81.7 per cent wage loss for part-time workers.

This means that persons who do go back into the workforce are paid much less than they would have been before, even receiving compensation benefits, this supplement. They are paid far less going back.

That comes to the point here. When we look at the new recommendations in the act for lost-work time and vocational rehabilitation, I have two or three persons who just recently—this is carrying out the new Workers' Compensation Board policy established in 1987. If members want to take a good close look at it, they should take a look at it, because it is the same thing that is in this bill now.

Claim 15197698H is a young fellow, 23 years of age, who worked in industry. He had three days to go and he would have been on permanent employment. He had the first temporary employment days there. He just had about three days to go. He was involved in an injury in a plant, a compound fracture of his leg.

He was treated, got the leg set, and the board members from the rehabilitation centre came in and said he was ready to go back to work. One thing happened. He was at home and he slipped and fell. The leg had to be set again. They set it again. He was trying to get compensation to cover it. They said: "No, it happened at home. What was the cause of it?"

He came in the office and he was talking to me. He said the leg was set, after the first accident—or the second accident because he had it set again in between—35 degrees off what it should be. There were steel plates in it.

I said to him: "You'd better get back to your family physician. Is he aware of this?" When he went back to his family physician, he raised hot air over it. He got a good letter from him and went back to the board. He ended up having to go back in. They sent him to a specialist in Hamilton first, and he recommended the changes that had to be done back to the local surgeon who had performed the leg setting before, putting the plates in there to stabilize it, and changes were made.

If a person goes up for medical assessment and gets to the stage where he is in an appeals system, the new suggestion here is that he can:

"(9) Upon receiving a request for reconsideration under subsection (8), the board shall provide the worker and the employer with a list of at least three medical practitioners, selected from a roster established under subsection (16), from among whom the worker and the employer, by

agreement and within 30 days after receiving the list, may select a person who shall conduct a medical assessment."

I have difficulty in following that. If you take in Canada pension and it is included in the worker's compensation, they have three medical advisers to make a decision whether they consider a person totally disabled or disabled to some degree. To take one doctor and say we are going to let him be the final judge of it, I do not think is the right step to go. I would like to see at least three doctors there, because you are going to get different opinions from each one. But then again, in the long run, you are going to get a compromise that is probably going to be more acceptable to either of the parties involved.

It is rather difficult. I suggest the members take a good look at that. I do not think one is enough. From what I have seen over my years of dealing with worker's compensation claims, and I have been doing it for a number of years, I really have some difficulties.

Getting back to the rehabilitation of these two, I have written a letter to the minister. In the reply I got back, he said, "Your letter also raised the issue that it is a common practice to terminate wage-loss supplements after a specific time period without having consideration to the worker's individual circumstances." This is true. I think any member will stand up and say, "I can agree with that," because that is what I put in my letter to the chairman.

He said, "I wish to advise you that in claims where wage-loss supplementary benefits are paid in accordance with the new section 45(5) policy"—that is a policy, not the act; they can interpret it the way they want—"which became effective November 9, 1987, each worker is written to advise them of the new policy." Normally, when the board sent it this way, they had their supplements cut, and the duration of benefits.

"In addition, it is suggested that the contact be made with the vocational rehabilitation counselor for assistance." This young man, 22 years of age, picked up a job. He could not go back to the original plant, because they would not take him back. He did not have seniority, but I doubt even then that they would take him back, and he is out doing some job searching.

The minute he goes for a medical examination and they take a look at his knee, and perhaps further surgery—he is wearing a knee brace now to assist him in working. He is a plumber's helper and he has been doing it for about 14 or 16 months, climbing a ladder, bending and getting

into tight crawl spaces. But even then I suggested to him that he has 16 months in employment there. He should have that applied against the apprenticeship program with the workers' compensation, so that the experience he gathers there can be helpful for future employment.

If he got his licence in plumbing, he could perhaps go out and work to his own rules of working. But he tells me, "I have difficulties with my leg right now and the pain," in that he is putting up with pain. So he takes a wage cut from about \$14 an hour—\$13.86 or something—down to \$7 an hour. That is what they are paying him now and under the new policy they have cut him right off.

Do members know what they tell him? "You should be out searching for another job or upgrading your education." They suggested to him, "Go to Niagara College for two nights a week and we'll pay for it." Here he is in a training program that could be considered as an apprenticeship program. That is not good enough for them.

The other one is another person, claim C-14580768H. It is the same thing, an injury to the knee, two operations on it and ready for the third one. He has gone back into the workforce. The vocational rehabilitation officer helped him locate a job at Canadian Tire, at minimum wage, less than \$5 per hour. He was earning \$13 and something and he is down to \$5 an hour. They cut him off his supplement just like that. "Yes, we notified him, 'You're out.'"

It is the same excuses. "If you're not satisfied with that job, go out and look for another job." The guy has been all over the place. He does not want to work for five bucks an hour. He will never get out of the rut. He is into that rut, put there by the workers' compensation. There is no way he can get out of it. I am sure the minister is not aware of these things that go on over there, but this is a fact; that goes on.

Under the new policy setup and the new act that is here, I can see a number of injured workers who are going to go through the same hassle and harassment by the board on the interpretation of what it is. You can have it in the act, say they have got to do this, but they come back and they have a little green book that says, "This is the policy the board carries," and it is far different from the intent of the legislation.

1720

I suggest that someplace along the line we have to take a good look at that. When I think about this, I think about the large layoff at Inco back in 1977. I am sure the member for Sudbury

East (Miss Martel) is familiar with that, as I am in Port Colborne where Inco was one of the best employers you could think of. With persons who were injured, with a degree of disability, and some were severe enough to cause a problem, they always found work for them.

But in an economic downturn, all those persons were turfed out. If you walk in the city of Port Colborne now, you will see them down on the main street on a Friday—any time, every day, you might say—young persons of 45, 50 and 55 with a disability, who cannot get a job and are living off just a small pension from the workers' compensation and the plant pension. They are lucky, with a total, to come up with \$1,100 or even \$800 or \$600 a month with the combination of the two.

In the Weiler report, they did follow the suggestion of a combination with the Canada pension plan, but if you look at the board on this, it has piggybacked that on to its benefits. Really, the person does not get any more increase; he gets cut down further.

You can look at the death compensation section. Instead of paying the full shot in the case of a serious accident, they only pay about—what is it?—less than \$2,000, and burial costs you \$4,000 or \$5,000 today. They say, "Let the Canada pension pay for it," which is totally irresponsible of the board in this particular area.

If we are going to go to that approach, then we should go all the way and make compensation a universal thing, so that regardless of where the accident happened, you are covered. You are paying into so many different disability schemes now that when a person is down and out, he gets nothing. He has to fight the whole system. He has to fight that.

Sickness and accident insurance is another one that is included in that. Unemployment insurance, sickness and accident; it is a compensation.

If you put them all together, you could come up with a program of a compensation plan that would be a benefit to society. You would not have them go back on welfare. There is a cost to that. All the newly elected members in the House now are advocates here. They bring in the legislation, but they have to go out and fight it.

If you look at the system of workers' compensation, if you do away with all the boards and the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal with the number of people working there—you have legal aid as an advocate in the picture of time and cost. You have the workers' advisers, an army down there. You have employers' advisers, an army there that is looking after them

too. They are all complaining about the same thing, the functions and operation of the board. Can we see fair settlements? In most cases, you cannot find them. There is the odd one that can be found. If you are fortunate enough to get good medical information there, you can probably beat the system.

What I am saying is that even there, if you look at the bill, and I want you to take a look at the bill, it says, "Protection against civil liability is extended to members...." I want a clarification from the minister in this area. Is that members of the Ontario Legislature? If it is, why is the staff not included?

It goes on to say, "...officers and employees of the Industrial Disease Standards Panel, to officers and employees of the office of the workers' adviser, the office of the employer adviser and of accident prevention associations, and to medical practitioners conducting assessments in specified circumstances."

They are all protected from liability, but the question is, does "members" mean members of the Legislature or employees in their offices? Staff should be covered too, because they are doing much of the work for the members right now.

I do not think the dual award system is a complete answer in the compensation system. It will make a considerable improvement over the existing outdated system, and this is what I have said for years, "outdated system," on almost every amendment that has come before the Legislature for consideration by all of us as to the right direction to go.

We talk about persons returning to employment, and I agree with the minister in this area: as soon as you can get them back in vocational rehabilitation, that is the way to go, but they have to get moving in that area and make sure you get the person trained for the right job in vocational rehabilitation.

I have seen in the past where they have sent a person to some school. The person with an injury to the knee or leg ended up as a dump truck driver. I do not have to tell members the problems that happen there. If anybody needs a good leg, it is those persons driving a truck or a vehicle. This is some of the treatment some of the injured workers have had in the past in vocational rehabilitation.

It is going to cost money to do it and do it in the right manner. I do not see anything in there that is going to be something that will give the direction so that we are going in to see this massive retraining that is going to take place.

You have a language barrier out there. That is going to be difficult right off the bat. I do not think that when we come to some of these persons—I think of many of the Italians who have received severe back injuries and the difficulties they have in this area because of the language problem. Perhaps they came over from Italy with a grade 6 education, but you could not find better tradesmen in the area of cement finishers or blocklayers or bricklayers. Nobody else wants to do that heavy manual job because it does take work.

I think about the problems I have had with the board when someone would make a sly remark, "Italians are great for complaining about back problems." Boy, I tell you, if you had to go out and do the work those fellows do, even in industry—because, perhaps, of the lack of education, they know nothing better than the pick and shovel or the heavy bull work in industry. I have been offended a couple of times by comments made down at the board over the years in this area.

I suggest that when we talk about retraining, they are going to have that much more pitch than what we see in the act. The act is good, but the question is, who is going to follow it up and go after it to see that these things are taking place, as we look at the reshaping of the Workers' Compensation Act?

I suggest to the members I could perhaps go on with my comments. I said it would be a half-hour or 20 minutes. I have gone past that. I suggest to the members when they are looking at this thing and get into third reading of it, take a look at the caseworkers' guide to workers' compensation, where they talk about vocational rehabilitation.

You look at it and they talk about chronic pain disorder. That is an area I have been concerned about. I have mentioned it at different times in different debates in the House. When you look at some of these persons, one of the problems you find in getting them back to work as soon as possible is that the heavy medication that is taken to relieve pain often works to the disadvantage to the persons going back to industry, because nine times out of 10 they go back to the same job that they were injured on.

The problem is that when you take too much of the heavy medication to relieve the pain, particularly in the back, that person's body is numb to a degree. He does not know the limitations, where pain should be noticed and where you have to slacken up a little bit. So he goes in there back to the same job under heavy drugs, prescribed drugs. Then the first thing you

know, another back injury occurs. There is recurrence, another injury.

If you get into that area, you could take up an hour in the House talking about recurrence. I appreciate what the minister is trying to do. I have flagged certain areas of concern here, as I have done in the past, and I hope he will respond to me. As much as you may have some misgivings about the amendments to the act, you still have to support them because there is something good in them. It puts a person in a difficult position.

I could get into a personal matter. Maybe I should tell members about it. I make reference to looking at the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. I had followed the father of the member for Sudbury East two years ago, I guess it was, with an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The letter was sent out to every businessman. It may as well have said, "Don't vote for this guy because he is going to break the province." In that area, I supported it because if there are any improvements in occupational health that are going to reduce accidents, the government should be moving in that direction.

The personal matter I am going to talk about is this. My son-in-law was involved in an accident last year, a severe accident. They ended up amputating his leg. In talking to the surgeon at the time—it was hectic. It had a traumatic effect upon the family, two young children.

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Talking to the surgeon, he said, "It is a severe injury, but we are more concerned about the infection that may follow." I got to thinking, "What do you mean, infection?" He said it was a dirty wound, caused by improper use of a jogging switch. He was caught in this machine, and as the person threw the emergency switch, big hydraulic fingers came up and seized the pipe, like that. Just about where he was, that is where the hydraulic fingers came up and caught his leg. You might say in one case it was a blessing that it stopped there, because two feet from there was the huge cutoff saw. I do not have to tell members what could happen there.

He was in the operating room three times, in and out of there. They tried everything to save the leg. I remember the orthopaedic surgeon who worked on him said he did a good carpenter's job. I looked at the X-rays. You could see the mass of metal in almost all the foot and the plates in the leg itself below the knee. It was all shattered. I looked at him and I said, "I can tell you this much, it is going to take more than this

carpenter to resolve the problem there," or to make sure that every effort was going to be made to save his leg.

That failed through infection. He was and still is in and out of hospital with that infection problem. It could be caused by the hydraulic oil that was on the machine. I do not know what effect that may have on a person, but it is a foreign body entering the human tissues and it could cause any problem. I do not know. I never got into it that deeply, because I kind of kept out of it. I thought I would just let the course go. He was in and out at different times for treatment, trying to get the leg to heal right because of the infection that was in it.

Lo and behold, last spring, they got him enrolled in vocational rehabilitation at Niagara College, which I thought was great, because it gave him some spirit. There was something hopeful down the road. He has responded well in that area. He got about two months behind him at Niagara College and, lo and behold, somebody from the Workers' Compensation Board visited the doctor and gave instructions that he could go back to work in July of last year.

He terminated his vocational rehabilitation at Niagara College, knowing full well that he would have to be in for a further checkup by the physician looking after him to see if the infection had cleared up under the present medication. It was not clearing up. He went into the hospital again, on intravenous, and he was given an injection of a new drug to try to clear it up.

That went on for a little bit and then in September it got critical again. The question was, "Have they got something that is going to clear this infection up?" If not, he would have to go in for further surgery. You are getting into an area that is really getting pretty touchy. So, in September, he went back into the hospital for two weeks under this special drug. It was expensive—the board paid for it—but finally I guess there are signs that it is starting to heal. Next week, he will be back working. The prosthesis worked very well with him and he has responded very well that way.

When you look at the act, if it applies here, as it is indicated here, a person will receive compensation for one year for a disability and then he has to go back to the employer. He is guaranteed one year of employment with the employer.

It may not work as well as it has with my son-in-law, but I will tell members this much: When you look at that alone, for one year he is guaranteed a job with the employer. In an

economic downturn—and when you look at competition in the workplace today, I hope it never happens—you will see it coming that they will say: “We have done our responsibility under the act. He is no longer required.” He is kicked out to the wolves again to find out where he goes from there.

That area should be looked at. I think industry has an obligation to maintain that person on the payroll. There are many jobs in industry that they can find for that person.

I suggest to members that is my area of concern in that. I will support it in principle, but I think there is lots of room here for the minister to take another look at it and some of the issues I have raised. I hope other members will take my comments, review them and talk to the minister or talk to anybody in the area. I have had plenty of experience with workers’ compensation. It has been educational for me. I have helped some people, and other persons I have not been able to help, but I have opened the door for many of them. I guess that is one of the things you, as a member, can say, “I’ve done something good.”

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I want to thank the member for his comments. I know of his experience. He and I have discussed a number of cases he has handled and he has brought them to my attention. I think his comments were truly from the heart. He has had experience with the system, particularly helping out individuals within his own constituency, and perhaps sometimes beyond, in a way those of us who have less experience in this House have not yet had.

The one thing I would like to say to him is that, from my perspective, so many of the situations he has described and so many of the really difficult cases he has had to deal with in his years representing workers who have had problems, so often what we are dealing with is a situation where the very rules themselves that apply to those cases have been unfair. I am glad to hear that after all of his experience with the system, he, as a legislator, as an MPP who has true experience with the system, supports the principles behind this bill.

I want to tell him that in so many cases we have dealt with the very cases he has described. We are talking about a system whose arbitrary rules simply have not been large enough and responsive enough to the workers he has represented. I hope, as we move this bill forward, that in his experiences in the future under better rules in a system that takes a far better stab at helping workers get back to work, that in his future work with injured workers, once this system is in

place, he will see the positive result in his own very good constituency work.

Mr. Breaugh: I was working in my office and I came down to say to the member for Niagara South that this is about the best speech I have heard him give in here, and I have heard him give many good speeches. It was good because it was about him and his role as a member.

I listened to the minister respond to him briefly and I am not quite sure the minister heard what he had to say. I would like the minister to review it just a bit, because he had a senior member of the Legislature, as many of us who have been around for a while are, point out that it is not the system on its own, it is not the personnel who are there, it is not exactly the rules that are there; this process does not work. Like the member for Niagara South, many of us have seen people try to reform the system many times.

When I first became a member here, one of Oshawa’s most distinguished citizens, Michael Starr, was named to head the compensation board. He comes from an industrial community. I know him personally to be a man of great integrity, I know that he had great enthusiasm for his task; and he, like many who followed him, did try to change the way that process works there—unsuccessfully.

I think the member for Niagara South put on the record this afternoon that, as a government member, he wants to support the bill in principle. I do not agree with that, but I certainly understand that. I think he also put to the minister some very real problems that are not going to be resolved by word changes. I would hope that the minister would listen to him. It is not particularly a partisan matter. In a strange way, the Workers’ Compensation Board affects all of us, particularly those of us who have industrial ridings, where the case load is particularly heavy.

The plea has been made, and it will be made again during the course of this debate from all sides, that word changes are not enough, that this process does not work.

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Mr. Fleet: I would, first of all, like to very much commend the member for Niagara South. I have talked with him privately on occasions about workers’ compensation and I know how close it is to his heart. I was touched by some of the stories. I know that there are many more in his memory and his experience, and I certainly commend the comments he made to the minister. I would hope and expect that, in fact, the minister will be able to consider closely all his comments as this bill proceeds.

I also join with the member for Niagara South in supporting the principles behind the bill. We do know that there are lots of improvements needed, that the system is arbitrary, it is bureaucratic, it is slow and it has historically been unfair because of those and other complicating reasons; but the principles that are contained in the bill are certainly a positive step forward.

I do not think anybody thinks they are a solution all by themselves but the fact that in the future we are getting rid of the meat chart, I think, is highly desirable. That was clearly inadequate. For workers who are currently receiving permanent pensions, they will, in fact, be protected. Those pensions are not going to be eroded. The fact that people on those permanent pensions, those on the most inadequate pensions are going to get an additional supplement—approximately 20,000 injured workers. All of these benefits will continue to be increased annually in accordance with the cost of living and will continue to be tax free. Those are very desirable principles.

I would like to see, frankly, more done in terms of rehabilitation, and I certainly urge the government to do that. Once again, I thank the member for Niagara South for his very meaningful comments.

Miss Martel: I want to thank the member for Niagara South for getting up to express some of his concerns on this bill. It is nice to know that he has read it, he has gone through it and does have some of the concerns that we do, although he will be supporting it and we will not.

In any event, I want to look at two things. The first is his comment concerning the Workers' Compensation Board roster of doctors. He said he is a little concerned by the fact that there is only one doctor who is going to be appointed who will be looking at reassessments and he would like to see three. I guess the point I would like to make to the member is that I would like to see it taken out of the WCB internal system, because what we have here is a complete roster of doctors appointed by the WCB to do assessments.

The role of the family doctor, the treating physician, whether he be just a general surgeon or a specialist, is taken out of this completely. The family doctor has no say in a permanent disability assessment or a reassessment, and we can no longer use his medical reports to appeal to the WCB.

I must say I am extremely concerned that the system of appeal has been internalized and, indeed, that appeals on permanent disabilities

cannot go to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal.

The second concern that he raised, and I was extremely glad that he raised it, was that concerning the supplements policy on pensions which is now in place at the board—policy, not legislation, coming from members of this Legislature. He went on to say that the people who are getting cut off under the supplements policy now will continue to be cut off under the new bill. That is exactly what both my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and I have trying to say, and I am certainly glad that he made that point in this House today to members as well.

The Deputy Speaker: Would the member for Niagara South wish to reply?

Mr. Haggerty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go back to my first days in the Legislature here and making my appeals to workmen's compensation. I did talk about the sinus cancer that established the first claim in Ontario, as one of those responsible. I cannot take all the credit for it because there is one person perhaps that I should give much of the credit to and he was the former chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board, Bruce Legge. I will tell members that where the board was establishing new grounds for compensation, he was always at that appeal.

Since he has gone, I have gone to the highest appeals for the board, but I never see the chairman there, really to see how things are functioning. I can tell members that I was down to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal and I had never seen injured workers being harassed and badgered by cross-examination. When we talk about the adversary system, that is something that I think all of us should be looking at, to get rid of it. In any changes that we see, amendments coming, hopefully those are going to remove the arbitrary system that is there instead of building up another army of bureaucrats, if I can put it that way.

I appreciate the comments from the members who have responded to my views expressed this afternoon. I will continue to work in that area for the benefit of the injured workers and to reduce the number of accidents in industries.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Breagh: We will be a little abbreviated this afternoon, but I would like to speak a little bit about this bill and about the principle. I think that essentially I could not suggest to members any

piece of legislation that will affect them more directly than this bill.

I know there are some ridings where the number of compensation cases is not what it would be in a place like Oshawa or Hamilton or Windsor or Niagara or Sudbury, where there is a very heavy industrial component to the community. I know that it is sometimes difficult for members to grasp how a bill can affect your life and the lives of the people you represent, but I have noted, in talking to the many new members who are here in this chamber now, that it did not take very long for them to get some grasp that there was something drastically wrong with the Workers' Compensation Board. I think any member of this assembly is not a member for a very long time before he has people coming into his constituency office on a regular basis in a way that is unusual.

It is unusual, for example, for people who are in pain to be visiting members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We deal with all kinds of people who have problems with government bureaucracies, but it is rare to find a group of people who are consistently in front of you in the same way. It is frustrating and, in part, our opposition to the bill is an expression of that frustration.

About a week or so ago, the injured workers were here again, as they have been at least once a year, every year since I have been a member. On this one occasion, unfortunately, the demonstration was not confined to the exterior of the building, as it usually is. There was a demonstration inside the building. Some of us, a small group of us, did not know these injured workers personally, but we certainly knew the kind of people they were, because in our own constituencies we have people just like them and, on other occasions, our people would have been demonstrating too.

I went to the front door, and I must confess I have never seen anything like that in or around this chamber. It was frightening, even though the people who were demonstrating were ones who would normally be friends of mine, whether I knew them or not, who would normally identify my party as being one of the political parties that is interested in their problems and has struggled, as many members have in all parties, to see that they got fair and reasonable treatment.

But they were angry. They were very angry. And in a strange way, as I walked among them—and it was not a very comfortable feeling, because the security guards here were under siege, without question—I think what many of us

were concerned about, and I am sure members on all sides were, was not that they do not have the right to demonstrate but that when the demonstration gets to the front door of the chamber itself and you have injured workers involved in it, people who would be susceptible in a crowd to even more injury were here trying to make their argument, their political point, in a sense, that they put themselves in a position of great vulnerability. As I walked among them, the one thing they said consistently was something that I have heard many, many times. What they want from a government is not really money, although that is a basic problem that they have, just plain economics; what they want is some respect.

It is very difficult for members of the government, I am sure, to admit that they are running an agency which does not offer to people who are injured the basic respect that any decent society would give them. I do not mean to lay this on the government and I do not mean to lay it on any government that has been here previously. I know personally people who have been chairing the compensation board. I know a number of people who work there. I deal with them on a regular basis; so does all of my staff. They are not evil. They do not intend to cause people pain or suffering, they do not intend to cause the problems that they do with injured workers. They are many of them reform-minded, much like the reforms contained in this bill.

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This is not the first occasion when this assembly has been presented with a bill of this kind. One could argue that the reforms being proposed in this particular bill are unique, are different from what other people have said. In my caucus, for example, our research people have gone through it with a fine-toothed comb. I am sure that every member of our caucus has read this bill in a way that you do not normally read legislation that is not your specific responsibility. I also would put to members that many of us have canvassed our consultants.

These are not consultants in the normal way that a government would have a consultant, but I am sure every member here has somebody in his riding who comes to see him on a regular basis about the compensation board. They tend to be injured and they tend to be older rather than younger. An amazing number of them are women, although I would suppose that many of us would make the wrong assumption, that injured workers are generally men. They carry with them packages of paper—notes and letters from the compensation board, from their em-

ployer, from their family doctor, from other doctors they have been to see, from injured workers groups they have talked to, from their union, from other people in their community. The ones who come to see me on a regular basis carry all of this information all the time, every time I see them. Wherever I meet them, they want to talk about the compensation board and what it has done to them and to their lives.

It is not an uncommon thing for many of us to sit in our office and, not like the crowd scene we saw at the door, but on an individual, very personal, face-to-face basis, have to try to explain this process to someone. That is very difficult. It would be difficult for a person who was trained, skilled, well-educated and could handle a government bureaucracy. It is difficult for someone who is familiar with the idea of filling out forms and doing assessments.

Is there anybody here who has not had a doctor or a lawyer come to him about the way the compensation board works? People who are professional, people who are trained and skilled in writing assessments, in writing opinions, in appearing before boards and tribunals, in gathering up specific information to make an argument are unhappy with this system. There are some who have looked at the compensation board and simply said: "Well, let's put the lawyers to work. It's a quasi-judicial thing. It's like many other tribunals and appeal boards that we have at work in Ontario. Simply fund a legal process which does that."

In my community, as in many others, there is a legal aid clinic which essentially does provide that assistance. Many of our unions have tried to develop in their own ranks expertise on how to deal with this particular law, on how to advise their members on just how to get through the process. Many of us spend a lot of hours advising our constituents on how to do this—appearing before the appeals boards themselves, gathering information. There is a lot of energy and a lot of expertise put into coping with this one system.

I wish the minister was right, frankly. I wish that it was simply a matter of changing some of the words in the law. But I do not believe it is.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I didn't say that.

Mr. Breagh: I wish it was simply a matter of the Minister of Labour introducing some new concepts, but I do not believe it is. It may be somewhat cynical, but I think many members in here who have been around for a while would share that cynicism that this is going to be the most difficult agency of the government of Ontario to reform.

There are some principles in the bill itself which bother me. Any time I hear someone, whether that is the federal Minister of Finance or our Minister of Labour say that this is revenue neutral, I am aware that if they have to reach for that kind of language, there is something that should be looked at. Because if we wanted to say revenue neutral, why do we not say it is not going to cost anybody any money?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Any more or any less.

Mr. Breagh: Any more or any less, as the minister says. For many of us, we can play these word games and it makes no difference. It is a nice argument. For the people who appeared at our front door, they do not appreciate the nuances of this. They have been around too long. They have been before the Workers' Compensation Board too often. They have seen their friends injured. They have seen their friends die in the workplace.

Many of them, in a sense, after a while develop an instinct for whether something is right or wrong. I must say that I took my own guidance, personally, not from my research component here at Queen's Park or not from other members, but from people I know who have developed an expertise over the years working with the board.

I sought their advice about whether this new bill would be an improvement or not. I want to report simply that unanimously they said no, that the wrong choices have been made and that the structure will not be improved but worsened by these changes.

I would hope that the Minister of Labour would defend his bill vigorously. I expect him to do that. I expect the government that has already made the cabinet decision, and this is the option it chooses to exercise, would put forward its arguments as best it can.

Let me also put this caution to the government. There was a reluctance initially for this bill to go to committee for public hearings. That seems to have been—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is not true, Michael.

Mr. Breagh: The Minister of Labour says it is not true, but I have to admit that I stood in this chamber and I watched his performance on the day when we pressed for public hearings. It took the government House leader to stand in his place and to come as close as I have heard any minister of the crown to saying, "Yes, we want public hearings."

Before the minister gets all that defensive, it would do him good this afternoon—

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It's just not true.

Mr. Breagh: It would do the Minister of Labour the world of good this afternoon, if instead of sitting in his seat yelling that it is not true, he would listen—listen to his own members and to other members of the assembly who have an opinion on the matter that did not come about casually.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am riveted to what you are saying.

Mr. Breagh: I have several people who have suggested to me that the minister should be riveted in many other ways, but not to what I say.

I think it would do this government the world of good to open this process up now. If he is right, if the bill he is proposing, if the changes which he thinks will do some good for some people will stand the test of the public examining that, then perhaps he is right.

But I sense that he is not. Worse than that, I sense this afternoon that he is prepared to go through the process, but he is not prepared to listen. Let me tell him that that is going to be an extremely difficult situation. The people who want to appear before a committee of this Legislature to say what they have to say about this bill are not in a mood to be bettered by a speaker. They are not in a mood to lose a verbal argument. They are not about to stand around and let the minister play with nuances of the language.

What they have to say to the minister is going to be very straightforward. It is going to be that they have been treated unfairly for a long period of time. I think there is not a member here who would disagree with that. They demand what

they said at the front door of this chamber—respect.

If the minister offers them that measure of respect, he cannot do that and say they are wrong. He has to listen to what they have to say and see if he can accommodate some of that. I have not heard the minister say that so far. He is going to have to at some point in time.

The hearings on this process will be difficult, but they are going to have to be done. They are going to have to be done with a very open attitude. I sense that the government, at least so far, does not have that attitude. I hope it reassesses its position on that.

I think the minister will be taken aback by the ferocity of the arguments. They will be, if I am correct, emotional arguments. There is no way to avoid that. They will also be arguments from people who have spent a lot of their lives dealing with this one bureaucracy.

They will look at his bill and how it will be interpreted, but the minister will never get away from the fact that these are people who are not innocents. They are innocents in the sense that they did not chose to be injured, but they are wise people who have been around for a while, who have dealt with this compensation board for many years.

I will conclude my remarks tomorrow, but I want to finish today by simply saying to the minister that the public hearing process for this bill is going to be more critical and more difficult than anything he has ever seen before, but it is also going to be necessary.

On motion by Mr. Breagh, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President
 of the Council and Minister of Intergovern-
 mental Affairs
 Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treas-
 urer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environ-
 ment
 Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal
 Affairs
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural
 Resources
 O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation
 Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the
 Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of
 Financial Institutions
 Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations
 Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of
 Revenue
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Develop-
 ment
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry,
 Trade and Technology

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications
 Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health
 Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development
 Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services
 Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities
 Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services
 Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio
 Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Ballinger, William G.: assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles: assistant to the Minister of Education (York North L)
 Brown, Michael A.: assistant to the Minister of Mines (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Cordiano, Joseph: assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Lawrence L)
 Faubert, Frank: assistant to the Minister of Revenue (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Ferraro, Rick E.: assistant to the Minister of Financial Institutions (Guelph L)
 Haggerty, Ray: assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Niagara South L)
 Hart, Christine E. (Ms.): assistant to the Minister of Treasury and Economics (York East L)
 Kanter, Ron: assistant to the Solicitor General (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A.: assistant to the Minister of Health (Kingston and The Islands L)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano: assistant to the Minister of Culture and Communications (Downsview L)
 Lupusella, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Government Services (Dovercourt L)
 Mahoney, Steven W.: assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mississauga West L)
 McClelland, Carman: assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Brampton North L)

McGuigan, James F.: assistant to the Minister of Transportation (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J.: assistant to the Minister of Skills Development (Ottawa South L)
 Miclash, Frank: assistant to the Minister of Northern Development (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I.: assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E.: assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Carleton East L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford: assistant to the Minister of Housing (York Mills L)
 Offer, Steven: assistant to the Attorney General (Mississauga North L)
 Polsinelli, Claudio: assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Yorkview L)
 Ruprecht, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Parkdale L)
 Smith, David W.: assistant to the Minister of Correctional Services (Lambton L)
 South, Larry: assistant to the Minister of Energy (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Labour (Halton Centre L)
 Velshi, Murad: assistant to the Minister of Citizenship (Don Mills L)

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Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Callahan; vice-chairman, Mr. Chiarelli; members, Messrs. Farnan, Hampton, Kanter, Mahoney, McGuinty, Offer, Polsinelli, Runciman and Sterling; clerk, Deborah Deller.

Finance and economic affairs: chairman, Mr. D. R. Cooke; vice-chairman, Mr. Ferraro; members, Messrs. Cleary, Haggerty, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Kozyra, Mackenzie, McCague, Morin-Strom, Pelissier and Pope; clerk, Todd Decker.

General government: members, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Callahan, Charlton, Cordiano, Cureatz, Elliot, Faubert, Fleet, McLean, Ruprecht and Sola; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

Government agencies: chairman, Mr. McLean; members, Messrs. Ballinger, Breaugh, Mrs. Marland, Miss Martel, Messrs. Miller, J. B. Nixon, Miss Roberts, Messrs. Runciman, South and Velshi; clerk, Deborah Deller.

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Ombudsman: chairman, Miss Nicholas; members, Messrs. Bossy, Carrothers, Charlton, Cousens, Henderson, Mrs. LeBourdais, Messrs.

Lupusella, MacDonald, Philip and Pollock; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. Philip; vice-chairman, Mr. Pouliot; members, Messrs. Adams, Ballinger, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cousens, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Martel, Miss Nicholas, Messrs. J. B. Nixon and Villeneuve; clerk, Douglas Arnott.

Regulations and private bills: members, Messrs. Furlong, Keyes, Lipsett, McCague, Miclash, Pollock, Reville, Smith, Sola and Mrs. Stoner; clerk, Tannis Manikel.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Laughren; vice-chairman, Mr. Wildman; members, Messrs. Black, Brown, Dietsch, Mrs. Grier, Mr. Leone, Mrs. Marland, Messrs. McGuigan, Tatham and Wiseman; clerk, Lynn Mellor.

Social development: chairman, Neumann; vice-chairman, Mrs. O'Neill; members, Messrs. Allen, Beer, Carrothers, Mrs. Cunningham,

Messrs. Daigeler, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Owen and Ms. Poole; clerk, Todd Decker.

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Education: chairman, Ms. Poole; vice-chairman, Mr. Reycraft; members, Messrs. D. S. Cooke, Furlong, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Keyes, Mahoney, Miclash, Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Villeneuve; clerk, Lynn Mellor.

Energy: chairman, Mr. Carrothers; vice-chairman, Mr. McGuigan; members, Messrs. Brown, Charlton, Cureatz, Mrs. Grier, Messrs. Matrundola, M. C. Ray, Runciman, South and Mrs. Sullivan; clerk, Tannis Manikel.

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. The other lists, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, November 2, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, November 2, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMISSIONERS OF ESTATE BILLS

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that the Clerk has received a report from the commissioners of estate bills with respect to Bill Pr9, An Act respecting the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

Accordingly, pursuant to standing order 78(e), the bill stands referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills.

USE OF TIME FOR MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform the members that yesterday the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) raised a point of order relating to a statement that had been made by the member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller), the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, during the period known as members' statements. The honourable member complained, "My concern is that the parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is abusing backbench members' time to make ministerial announcements."

In reviewing this matter, I have taken into account our standing order 27(a) as well as that part of the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs and agencies, boards and commissions in November 1985 which proposed this new procedure. That report has suggested that even ministers be allowed to make statements as long as those statements did not relate to the ministers' direct responsibilities: "Statements could be made by members who are ministers but such statements could not relate to the member's responsibilities as a minister of the crown."

Taking into account the spirit of that report, even though the House did not choose to adopt all the recommendations giving this right to ministers, I think it appropriate that in the future, parliamentary assistants should not make statements using this procedure if the proposed statement is one that could just as well be made by the minister.

In other words, parliamentary assistants can still make statements dealing with the special

matters for which they have special responsibilities, but that statement should not constitute an announcement or a series of facts that should be more properly situated in the statements-by-the-ministry section of our proceedings.

While there are no specific rules and guidelines attached to this procedure, this ruling constitutes a second restriction on the use of members' statements. The first one, to recall it to all members' minds, was brought to the attention of the honourable members in a ruling I gave on April 30, 1986, in which I said that members' statements should not be used for personal attacks on other members.

I would like to thank the honourable member for bringing this matter to the attention of the House.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE DETACHMENT

Mr. Wildman: I rise to express a concern about inadequate Ontario Provincial Police staffing in the Sault Ste. Marie detachment in my area. That detachment covers approximately 115 miles from Montreal River to Pine Island in the Sault Ste. Marie area and the OPP detachment is particularly short of staff on weekends.

For instance, last Saturday evening in Batchawana Bay, a constituent of mine called the OPP after he had been threatened and felt that he was in danger. He called at 8 p.m. Two hours later, when he still had not received any response from the OPP, he called again. Still nothing happened. By the time he retired at approximately 2 a.m., he still had received no response.

The next day he phoned the OPP to find out why no one had responded to his call and was informed that there were only two officers on duty that evening and one was north of the Sault and one was east of the city and they did not have enough staff to respond to his call.

We are fortunate that the threat was only that and was not carried out, and that no injury or worse occurred, but it was not because of the OPP. The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) should look into this to ensure that there is adequate staffing for the detachment so it can respond to calls when they are made.

NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. Harris: The national election and the sales tax issue have transformed the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) from the tax dragon of St. George into a coy coquette.

The Treasurer says he raised the issue because he wants people to know what is going on. Too bad he did not have the same concerns last September when he somehow forgot to mention he was going to hike taxes by \$1.3 billion in his next budget.

Too bad his concern for the effect of a national sales tax on new home buyers is not reflected in his own tax policies, which have substantially increased the cost of home ownership. Too bad the Treasurer has not been as quick to speculate about the implications of the proposal of the federal Liberal leader to scrap the national sales tax and tinker yet again with the regressive manufacturers' sales tax.

The Treasurer has never ruled out participating in a national sales tax program and, in fact, at one point speculated the idea was attractive to him and that the federal proposal could cut the provincial sales tax rate, which at that time was seven per cent, not the eight per cent it is now. Too bad for the taxpayer that the Treasurer has forgotten that.

Too bad for the taxpayer that what is really going on is political doubletalk instead of any serious debate about tax reform and tax relief for the middle-class and lower-income groups.

MADAWASKA HIGHLANDS REGIONAL TRUST PARK

Mr. MacDonald: I would like to take this opportunity to speak on the issue of the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust. A proposal has been set forth to establish the Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust, controlling an area of approximately 4,000 square kilometres of land. This area affects the county of Lennox and Addington, as well as Hastings, Renfrew, Frontenac and Lanark counties.

I wish to state that I support the decision of the Ministry of Natural Resources to continue to responsibly manage this area under the current land use guidelines. As this is an issue of continuing concern with many of my constituents, I am pleased to report to them that the Ministry of Natural Resources is definitely opposed to the establishment of this proposed trust.

1340

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: Sheila Crowe Perfitt is one of many who urgently require that the government implement stage 1 of the Thomson social assistance reforms immediately. A 38-year-old divorced London woman on general welfare, Sheila has \$2 left for food, etc., each month after basic shelter expenses have been met. She began a training course, but illness, probably due to malnutrition, forced her to drop out.

The \$105 per week she was to receive on the course was to be offset, dollar per dollar, against her welfare cheque, but one payment overlapped her regular welfare cheque and repayment was demanded. The collections office declared there was no way it could even process the \$2 per month payment she could afford and so sent the file back to welfare which simply began deducting 10 per cent or \$47.50 from her next month's cheque.

Sheila appealed to the Social Assistance Review Board that the \$105 training money should be treated as employment income so she would not be worse off on training than on welfare. Further, she should have been advised to go on vocational rehabilitation, which would have given her a higher rate of assistance plus an education allowance that would have avoided all of these problems. Sheila will probably lose, but in the meantime she has to borrow money that she cannot repay so she can survive the deductions welfare is imposing on repayment.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) can cut through the tangles of convoluted regulations by implementing the first stage of the Thomson report. Why will he not act?

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mrs. Cunningham: This government prided itself by making a press release last November that announced a general commitment in the 1988 legislative grants to school boards. This is really nothing but a public relations exercise and is only useful for rough estimates and not at all helpful to the budgetary process for boards.

The current fiscal year for school boards, from January to January, continues to cause significant problems for school boards across Ontario. Currently, although the fiscal year begins in January, it is not until March that the school boards actually find out how much money in grants they will receive. This means that well into a board's fiscal year, trustees are speculating on how much money they will receive.

Having a fiscal year that does not coincide with one's operational year defies the basic rule of good accounting. A fiscal year should coincide with an operational year. Students begin their school year in September. A fiscal year that relates to good management for education should also begin in September. The minister should change the fiscal year for our local school boards to September to coincide with the school year. This will allow school boards to plan effectively and hence to ensure that our young people receive the quality education they deserve.

CONFLICT IN LEBANON

Mr. McGuinty: Recently, the Friends of Lebanon in Ottawa held an event to draw attention to the plight of their homeland. One of the most vicious civil wars in this century has raged in Lebanon for 14 years. The Lebanese people have lived under gun law and political violence. Entire villages have been destroyed, thousands left homeless, and 150,000 people, mainly civilians, have been killed.

Prior to this war, Lebanon was a nation prosperous and developed, contributing to the world economy and to world peace.

That is why the Friends of Lebanon urgently called upon the Canadian International Development Agency to review the status accorded Lebanon and to include Lebanon among those nations considered to be in need of assistance, and called upon the Canadian agencies for international relief to do their part in coming to the rescue of Lebanon, and upon the Canadian media to heighten awareness of this humanitarian issue worldwide.

If these goals are achieved, Lebanon, within its borders and abroad, with the help of the international community will begin the process of rehabilitation in order that the sufferings of Lebanon and its peoples come to an end.

In our world, no man is an island. The plight of any nation is our plight. The rights of all are diminished if the rights of any one are violated. The sufferings of the Lebanese people should be our concern. No one ever made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO-MICHIGAN MARITIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Earlier this year, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) signed a memorandum of understanding on maritime commerce with Michigan Governor James Blanchard. That

agreement called for the establishment of an advisory committee comprising four representatives, one from each jurisdiction. The committee's main role will be to co-ordinate information and recommendations on federal, provincial and state policies related to transportation activities on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

I have the honour today of announcing this province's four appointees to this committee. They are: David Cree, general manager of the Windsor Harbour Commission and director of the Detroit-Windsor Port Corp.; Peter Cresswell, vice-president and general manager of the marine division of the Algoma Central Railway; Brian McKeown, vice-president of Morterm Ltd. and the Essex Terminal Railway Co. and a member of the board of governors of the University of Windsor, and Norman Mealing, executive director of the provincial transportation division of the Ministry of Transportation.

These appointments reflect a mutual agreement to ensure membership on the committee from the private, public and academic sectors of both jurisdictions. We believe these four individuals will provide Ontario with experienced and capable representation in matters which will have a serious impact on the future of our maritime industries.

Through the memorandum of understanding, Ontario and the state of Michigan will pursue joint initiatives aimed at improving maritime commerce. Among the important issues which may be considered are international marine trade development, research requirements, marketing, Seaway tolls, pilotage, winter navigation and coast guard services.

On behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and the new appointees, I would like to express our eagerness to work with our colleagues in the state of Michigan.

I hope this memorandum of understanding will lead to more joint efforts among the jurisdictions which have a vital interest in the future of shipping on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I am pleased to table today the 13th annual report of the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my advisory council for assisting the Office for Disabled Persons in working towards

integration and equality for Ontario citizens who have disabilities.

I am especially pleased to acknowledge the contribution and the leadership of Ron McInnes, who is serving his fourth term as chairman and who is present in the Speaker's gallery today. Thank you for coming, Ron.

As members will read in the report, the advisory council's activities have included promoting fair employment and accessibility to education, identifying services for hearing-impaired persons, holding community consultations in Thunder Bay, and participating in the work of a wide variety of committees and task forces such as the Ontario Standing Committee on Barrier Free Design and the Metropolitan Accessibility Study Group.

The focus of the council's work this year was independent living, as reflected in the discussion paper *Independent Living: The Time is Now*. The paper, published by the council, explores current and future methods of obtaining personal assistance. It addresses the provision of a direct funding option to allow consumers to manage their own assistance.

I am pleased to state that the members of the advisory council are now studying and also researching the crucial topic of employment and disability, including skills training and employment incentives. I look forward to their contribution on this subject and I wish to thank the council for all the work it has done on behalf of the citizens of Ontario.

1350

RESPONSES

ONTARIO-MICHIGAN MARITIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) with regard to the appointments to the Ontario-Michigan Maritime Advisory Committee. I would suggest that this type of international co-operation is in fact of vital importance to Ontario and Michigan and is the type of co-operation we hope would be forthcoming in other areas of transportation services as well.

We have some serious concerns about the shipping on the Great Lakes system, particularly with regard to the decreased levels of shipping on the Great Lakes. My understanding is that the Great Lakes system is operating at about only 45 per cent of its capacity right now. As a result, we have a lot of jobs that have been lost and are threatened across our province, most particularly

in a vitally important port in the community of Thunder Bay. We have a serious impact on that community as a result of lower levels of operation of the whole St. Lawrence Seaway system.

I would hope that this type of advisory committee could come forward with worthwhile recommendations in terms of how we can make the system a better one, one we can get back to higher levels of operation, because certainly we know that shipping, vessel transportation, historically has been the low-cost source of transportation in a central portion of North America. We have an asset there that should be more fully utilized.

As well, we have concerns in terms of various areas of the St. Lawrence Seaway, including the fact that today in the most important canal system on the Seaway, right in my home town of Sault Ste. Marie, we have the federal canal on the Canadian side not in operation. It was taken out of commission after nearly 100 years of operation, and the federal government has not found a way of getting it back into operation. It is still unresolved at this point what is going to happen with the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, lock system. We are totally dependent on the American lock system at this point. I hope this committee can come back with recommendations from the perspective of both Michigan and Ontario, in terms of what the future of that lock system should be, because it is on the border between those two jurisdictions.

I look forward to seeing the work of this advisory committee and hope that it will come up with recommendations which will see us improve our transportation system, reduce shipping costs to the users of the system and generate more jobs for all of us in Ontario.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Allen: I would also like to join with the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) in complimenting the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons and, in particular, its chairman, Ron McInnes, for the excellent work it does year by year in advising the ministry and indirectly, of course, advising this House on matters that pertain to the disabled. The members of that council are themselves deeply involved day in and day out with affairs concerning the disabled. The reports they provide us with are certainly invaluable for us when we look at such issues as

transportation for the disabled, independent living and now the study they are going to engage in that relates employment and disability.

I might, however, comment that the council's second-last study, "The Freedom to Move is Life Itself," was not entirely responded to by the government. The disabled community said, through the council, that the fundamental basis of any response in the transportation field is that the government lay out its agenda for integrated transport for the disabled. That has not been done, although some steps have been taken on a piecemeal basis in other respects in special systems.

Second, with regard to the most recent study, Independent Living, Beryl Potter of Action Awareness commented, when the minister suggested there should be a further study of this matter, that there had been many studies and the time had come for the government either to act or to say it was not going to act on this matter of independent living. I must say that when it comes to the question of employment and disability, skills training and employment incentives for the disabled, certainly this party is with the council in everything it will do in that regard, but I would simply like to suggest that perhaps the council might principally underscore the provisions of the Thomson report with respect to the disabled and disability and the relationship of that to employment issues. That would be a long way—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. The member for Lanark-Renfrew.

ONTARIO-MICHIGAN MARITIME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to make a few comments on the statement by the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) today. I am very pleased to see that he has brought forward this committee of four individuals who come from varied experiences and should bring a lot of expertise to this committee. Coming from an area that is served by the St. Lawrence and hearing some of the problems over the years that we have had with the operations of it, I am sure that this committee will bring in recommendations that will make it a more useful system than it is at the present time.

As was mentioned before, it is very inexpensive when we can ship by the Seaway or by the Great Lakes, so I think anything we can do to speed that up and to enhance it would be appreciated. There has been some trouble over the years with the piloting of some of the boats through the canal, and we have seen some

problems in and around getting in and out of the locks, things of that sort, as well as when to cut it off at the end of the season. On all these things and others, I would hope this committee would report back soon so that we can enact some of these changes it will be bringing forward.

It is always nice, too, when we work with our neighbours across the border and let them know that we can work together. Some would have us believe that a certain thing called free trade would not work, but this is working together and I am sure it will work out to the best for both sides.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Mrs. Marland: In rising to speak on behalf of our caucus this afternoon, I too would like to take pleasure in expressing our appreciation to the members of the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons and, in particular, thank you for the leadership of Ron McInnes.

Having worked with Mr. McInnes on the selection of recipients of the disabled awards around the province, I have had the privilege of getting to know him in a very small way, but my encounter with him proves that we are obviously very fortunate to have a man of his ability and his commitment to work in this particular area of leadership with that council.

I hope eventually that the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) will be put in a position by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to do more than receive these reports. These are very comprehensive reports. They represent a great deal of work on behalf of the members of that advisory council for the disabled, and it must be discouraging for them to now bring forth a third report and not really see any action—and I am speaking only in terms of my limited experience in the last three years.

I hope the minister will look at some areas of implementation. I realize he needs the funds to do it. I think this Liberal government should not have any difficulty in prioritizing in terms of human need. The human need of disabled people in this province has to be a priority. It is certainly a need beyond all others, in my humble opinion. If we do not help the people with different disabilities around this province, then, as far as I am concerned, we should not be considering helping people who are able to help themselves.

I think one of the things we should be looking to—and I have spoken about this before in this

Legislature—is that we have to secure transportation. My colleague in the New Democratic Party caucus talked about the integration of transportation systems. That is something that has to be a reality in Ontario. We also have to look at deeming the Wheel-Trans and similar services around this province as essential services so that they are not interrupted by the kind of labour disputes we have had in the past.

I would also like to suggest that money should be given to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) so that the implementation of more home care through the Red Cross—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That completes the allotted time for statements by the ministry and responses.

1400

ORAL QUESTIONS

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL

Mr. B. Rae: We know that this government is planning next week to introduce Bill 175 to the Legislature for debate. My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. This is the bill about which, when the minister introduced it in the House on June 29, 1988, he said, "We believe the failure to expressly exclude water exports from the agreement," referring to the free trade agreement, "opens a door we think ought to be closed."

When he closes the door, I wonder why he would use the following technique, and I am quoting from section 4 of the bill: "The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate." If the minister is not contemplating the sale of water out of the province of Ontario, why would he introduce legislation which specifically grants him the power and grants him the means to sell that water and even talks about payment to the crown?

Mr. Reville: It must be a swinging door.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, we on this side have grave concerns about some of our natural resources being incorporated in a free trade bill. In order to do what we could to protect this particular commodity from being exported, we decided that we would put such a bill. The fact of the matter is, if there were water to be transferred in any way out of the basin, interprovincially or anywhere else, we felt that we should have some ability to put a price on it.

I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition this so there is no mistake. If he or the other party were to move an amendment to make it absolutely clear that I am not concerned about putting that caveat in the bill and that he could improve the bill so that water cannot be exported, I will accept that kind of amendment.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has got to be kidding.

All right; he is the one who presented the bill; he has his majority of 94 and he presented a bill to sell water, not a bill to protect water. That is exactly what his government did; that is precisely what he did.

Section 17 of the bill, just so we know how far this government is prepared to go in selling out Ontario's water, says:

"The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,...

"(f) prescribing methods of calculating the amount of the payment required to be paid to the crown for a transfer of water under this act,

"(g) prescribing the terms of the payment required to be paid to the crown for a transfer of water under this act;

"(h) requiring that security be deposited by a person who has obtained an approval and prescribing the form, terms, conditions and amount of such security."

This is a bill whose purport, whose intent, whose content, whose direction and whose meaning is to sell water in the act. Can the minister stand up and deny that simple fact?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Absolutely. I would say that the bill was put for a very important purpose. If the member opposite wants to turn it around, that is his prerogative. I thought, in a sense, that we were on the same side in protecting some of the resources of this country. It appears that he wants to play politics rather than protect the resources of this country. That is what he is about.

Because his leader in this race is falling so far behind he is going to come here to try and support him. I am disturbed that he would even try that tactic, because it is not going to work. He is so far back it will take a bus to catch up to the leader, Mr. Turner now.

I want to tell him something. The bill was put there for a very good purpose. Mr. Crosbie reacted by putting an amendment to the free trade arrangement to protect that bill. I am going to tell the member something. He said it did not need to be done, but he did it. I will tell the member, we forced him to do it. I am pleased that we did. I

would look for the support of the Leader of the Opposition to protect the integrity of Canada, of Ontario, of our water and every other natural resource.—

Mr. B. Rae: That is why he has it on the agenda for next week. It is on the Orders and Notices paper for next week. The minister is the one who has put this bill directly into provincial politics. The minister says I am making a political issue out of this. He is darn right I am making a political issue out of the sale of our water by his government.

If the minister were interested in closing the door, instead of establishing a revolving door, which is what he has done, can he explain why he would say, "The amount to be paid to the crown for a transfer of water under subsection (1) may be a lump sum, a fixed periodic payment, an amount calculated according to the quantity of water transferred..."? Why did he not put that it could be MasterCard, ChargeX or American Express? He might as well, because that is what he has done. He has put in the bill that he is going to sell our water. I would like to ask the minister why he would disagree with W. A. C. Bennett—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member asked the question.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I want the House to understand that there is no misunderstanding about why the bill was put, as has been the case with this government of Ontario making every attempt to protect the natural resources of this province.

Mr. Wildman: Withdraw the bill and redraft it.

Mr. B. Rae: Withdraw the bill if it is such a bad bill.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Why does the member not just be quiet for a minute and let me explain what I want to tell him.

The fact of the matter is that I am putting a bill to protect the natural resources of this province from export to the United States of America. The fact of the matter is that the bill would be debated. As I said before, and I do not know why he had such a big laugh about it, I am prepared to accept his amendment; I am prepared to accept an amendment from the other side. If he thinks we should be doing something to protect our waters to a greater degree, I am making an undertaking that I am perfectly willing to do that.

The big thing that happened—and do not pass over it so lightly—was that Mr. Crosbie put an amendment to the free trade act, and he put it

there because we were putting this bill. Make no mistake about that.

Mr. Speaker: New question, and to which minister?

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if the bill is so bad, tell the minister that he can withdraw the bill. Let him withdraw the bill if that is what he is saying.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I want to protect the water; you don't. You want to play politics. Don't hand me that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: That's why you are selling it: you want to protect it? That's why—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I'm not selling it.

Mr. B. Rae: The whole thing is a bill of goods.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have wasted another two minutes. New question, the Leader of the Opposition.

NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. B. Rae: I do not have a quote from Wacky Bennett. I do have some questions, though, for the Treasurer concerning his musings over the question of a national sales tax and Ontario's participation in such a tax. I know the Treasurer commenced these discussions as a public service, not because he was taking a position. Somebody of his political inexperience would not be somebody to do that in the middle of a federal election.

I want to ask the Treasurer, what is he saying? Is he saying that he thinks the federal proposal for a national sales tax is wrong and unfair? Is he saying that Ontario will not participate in such a plan? Just precisely what is the nature of his musings with respect to the national sales tax?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I advise the honourable member to read Rosemary Speirs. She got it about as close as anybody can get it. In response actually to a question put forward by his colleague, the Treasury critic of the official opposition, I said last Thursday that we had made no decision about a national sales tax, that we had a sales tax that was mature and productive here, although it is not totally popular in all areas. It is hard for me to find anybody now who does not approve of raising money for this purpose as long as it is allocated to the programs of the province in a fair and judicious way, the way it has been over these many years—like three.

1410

Mr. B. Rae: The Treasurer might like to pretend that he is as innocent as Bambi in this regard, but in fact he is a co-conspirator with respect to the sales tax. He has been involved in these discussions from the very beginning. He is the senior financial spokesman for the largest province in Confederation. He has a role to play with respect to the development of the national sales tax.

The question I have for the Treasurer is this: Given what Judge Thomson had to say in his report, where he was particularly critical of an overreliance on sales tax and in particular critical of the recent increases that took place in the Treasurer's own budget, which led to an eight per cent sales tax rather than seven per cent, I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us why he is so reluctant now, after all this time and all these discussions, to take a position on behalf of the people and the taxpayers of Ontario and say that he does not think that a national sales tax is a good idea.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Judge Thomson also recommended that an additional \$1.3 billion be allocated, through the very effective ministry chaired by my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), to programs that we all hope in the future to improve substantially. My job is to assist my colleagues in making the judgements necessary in government, and then in return to provide the funds that support those programs.

I simply say again that we have a mature sales tax system here that is well administered and productive; the government of Canada, unfortunately, does not. The present Minister of Finance has indicated his desire to lower taxes, which he has done before the election, and increase the revenue from sales tax after the election.

He is very careful to say that those additional funds will be dished out to taxpayers in other forms. Certainly, I do not question his statement in that regard, but for anybody who is interested, a nine per cent federal sales tax on a broad basis, including everything, goods and services, except groceries, pharmaceuticals and one or two other important items, we expect would double the revenue they presently receive from the federal sales tax, when it is fully mature.

Mr. B. Rae: If the Treasurer is saying that the person with whom he has been having discussions for several months, indeed years, with respect to the national sales tax is now contemplating a tax that will effectively double the revenues to the federal government, I wonder what is holding the Treasurer back. Would he not

agree with me that if the Treasurer of the province of Ontario were to say no to a federal-provincial national sales tax, there could be no such tax? Why does he not exercise that power if he finds it so objectionable that Mr. Wilson in fact is planning to do this?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition does not understand the situation. The government of Canada, whatever its political stripe, has to look after its own revenue. He is quite aware, I am sure—certainly the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party is aware—that it is their intention if they are re-elected to increase the sales tax revenue and distribute that revenue in a variety of ways. That is their responsibility. Whether or not there is room for Ontario or New Brunswick to participate is something to be considered in the future. I have already told the honourable member that we have a mature sales tax system here and we think it is working efficiently.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps we could have the attention of all members. Order.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brandt: My question, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It relates to a letter dated October 28, 1985, from Foodland Ontario to his ministry. I quote from that letter, and this is apropos the discussions we have had with respect to York region developments and the 1,000 acres specifically that have come under some question in this House.

"From our review of the proposed amendment and the limited documentation provided in support of the amendment, we"—being Agriculture and Food—"are not satisfied that the need for the development of these lands has been demonstrated." It goes on to say, "In the absence of adequate documentation, we are concerned that this proposal is premature in view of existing undeveloped areas within the south urban area of Richmond Hill."

The Minister of Agriculture and Food obviously indicated, on the basis of this letter, that he was against the Bayview Hill project. The letter was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Can the minister tell me what discussions took place between Agriculture and Food and Municipal Affairs to allow this development to proceed as expeditiously as it did?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I hoped the member would read all of the letter he was quoting from, because the Ministry of Agriculture and Food put its

views in the context that the previous government, of which he was a member, had already approved this area being designated as "future urban" in July 1982. That is why the Minister of Agriculture and Food said, "We recognize the policies of the official plan allow the town to proceed with respect to this proposed amendment." He was part of that government, He passed it.

Mr. Brandt: I am going to start to read from where the minister left off.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr. Brandt: By way of a question, the very next sentence in that same letter says, "We are not prepared to support the proposal." The minister is fully aware that when an official plan is approved by a municipality, that plan requires the specific approval of his ministry for detailed aspects of that official plan. He should not try to hide behind an official plan from 1982, approved by a previous government, when he knows full well it still requires his approval. Why did he approve it?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I feel the leader of the third party should take responsibility for the actions he brought about while he was a member of that government: The member should also be aware that when he reads the letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the ministry also recognized that additional servicing capacity for the area had been found.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food referred to this fact because it was aware, and I am sure the honourable member is aware, that a letter from his former leader, former Premier Bill Davis, in April 1983 said to the region, "If, through the program, it can be demonstrated that there is additional capacity which can be satisfactorily used, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing would be prepared to accept amendments to the local official plan to permit additional development."

Therefore, under the framework established by the previous government, this amendment was inevitable.

Mr. Brandt: It is interesting to note that the minister very lightly slipped over the word "if." He knows full well that the former Premier's letter is no kind of guarantee, none whatever.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: Smirk, all who know so much about official plans.

Let me just tell members that Ag and Food made it very clear on October 28, 1985, that it was not prepared to approve of or to recommend

this particular project. It talked about concerns related to the density of the project. It talked about the fact there were other lands that were not developed in the area. It listed a whole series of concerns, all of which this ministry and the cabinet of this government, in some fashion, overruled. Who, in fact, overruled Ag and Food? That is the question I want to have answered.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I think the member is finding some fault with the words of his former leader, the Premier. The Premier established very clearly that it was the region and the local municipality that would determine the servicing capacity, and in that light, that designation which the member supported stands. It was inevitable that it was going to proceed and it was in that light that the Minister of Agriculture and Food spoke as he did.

1420

CIVIL SERVANTS' LEGAL FEES

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Chairman of Management Board. As the minister is undoubtedly aware, the Ministry of the Attorney General has paid, up to this point, \$47,000 for legal fees for one Casey Hill, who is suing the Church of Scientology, the Globe and Mail and other members of the media. After four years, the case has not gone to trial and we do not know how many tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars may ultimately be billed by the lawyers.

It is of vital importance to protect public money against an open-ended legal bill. Is it the policy of Management Board to approve in advance all arrangements to pay employees' legal fees, and what does Management Board do to protect the taxpayers against an open-ended commitment to pay the costs of a lawsuit?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not familiar in all details with respect to the particular issue that has been raised. I am familiar enough to know that the action was initiated under the auspices of, at least with the consent of, Mr. McMurtry, a previous Attorney General. It has been ongoing.

Like the member for Leeds-Grenville, who raised the question, I would like to look into it more deeply. I can tell the honourable member that with respect to information that is required in terms of spending through the Ontario legal aid plan, we require projections and updated information about what the legal aid plan will consume, but once the matter has progressed, it is up to people in the legal aid system to review from time to time the progress of a case and to make a determination if in fact there is merit that warrants the support of the legal aid plan.

The honourable member will likewise know that the plan is basically operated through local offices with respect to the legal aid designations of money. I can tell the honourable gentleman that I will be pleased to look in more detail at the reasons why this particular piece of litigation has been ongoing and why the funding has mounted to \$47,000 and report back to him.

Mr. Runciman: That is not a very reassuring answer to the taxpayers of Ontario, and I am not taking about the legal aid plan. I am concerned as well, and I mentioned this in my original question, about how we get our money back if the employee loses the lawsuit. Surely the taxpayers are entitled to an ironclad guarantee that the employee will pay the money back in the event he loses the lawsuit. Is it the policy of the government to obtain such a guarantee from the employee before advancing any money?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have been told indirectly across the floor that the honourable member did not refer to the legal aid plan, and if that was the case, I was mistaken.

I have given my undertaking to look into the matter a little bit more thoroughly and report back to the honourable gentleman. I cannot speak for why certain arrangements were made by other people with respect to previous commitments, but I certainly will look into protecting the taxpayers of the province. That is my role, as he has rightly pointed out, and we in fact have done a fair bit of work in that regard by cleaning up some of the messes that we inherited, and we intend to catch up to all of those as they come forward.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that with respect to this particular matter, I will make as full and complete a report as possible and answer those particular questions as soon as I have had a chance to discuss them with the Attorney General's department.

Mr. Runciman: I do not know how long they are going to continue to dump their garbage on the doorstep of the former government.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Runciman: The minister wants to investigate the situation and wants to indicate to the House that it is the responsibility of a previous government. I have a letter here dated February 16, 1988, from David Attley, in the criminal law division, to one Douglas Hunt, assistant deputy Attorney General, about this case, pointing out clearly that there are no funds to pay for this. Further on in the letter, it says, "It is felt quite

strongly that this money should come from some general fund within the ministry that should not be identified with the offices where these individuals work."

Later, we got a receipt through the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act that those fees, the \$47,000, were paid under the general accounts headed "Travel."

This is just one other area that is causing a great deal of concern. Members of the Attorney General's office were concerned they did not have funds. They have now attempted, I believe, to conceal them. The public is entitled to judge for themselves whether or not this minister—

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Runciman: Is the minister prepared to table all agreements that the government has with Mr. Hill with respect to payment of cost in this lawsuit, or would he prefer to hide the whole situation from public view?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is making wild accusations again, as he usually does. In fact, he is developing a reputation for being wildly imaginative in the words he chooses to describe the activities of this government.

He is not a credit, in my view, to his party, nor to his previous role in this particular Legislative Assembly, which had been to provide some very reasoned and worthwhile debate. The honourable gentleman knows that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has provided information to him. I can tell the honourable gentleman that we will—

Mr. Runciman: He was forced to through the freedom-of-information act.

Hon. Mr. Elston: He was not forced to through freedom of information. The member asked a question. He provided it, as the legislation is supposed to work. It did work. The member has the material in front of him. It has been identified for him.

It seems to me that the honourable gentleman has some information. I am prepared to take a look at other material because it is my role. Any time somebody brings to my attention the fact that there are expenses that one thinks are outrageous or whatever, I will examine exactly where they came from and how they were put.

I will provide further material to the honourable gentleman, but I cannot at all think that this gentleman is serious in the wild accusations he is making. I can tell the honourable members that I will, indeed, look into this further.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of Transportation. It concerns the Rouge Valley, an

area with which I am sure the minister is very familiar. On October 20, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) told the House: "It is the government's intention, and always has been, to preserve the Rouge. There is no question about that; there never has been." Can the minister tell us whether or not he agrees with that position?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The proposal in question was one that was put in place by the previous government in 1971. We recognize there are a multitude of transportation needs throughout this province. We even go to the expense for the taxpayer to provide transportation and roads for these people to come back and forth here on a daily basis, although some days I wonder why.

That corridor is there and is protected for eventual growth. We are working very closely with the city of Scarborough and other interested parties to discover whether or not there are options, but until such time as options are made available, the corridor, unbuilt, is in place.

Mrs. Grier: The minister must surely know that the city of Scarborough has said the corridor is no longer needed, that it can accommodate the anticipated growth in traffic on its arterial roads, and that Metropolitan Toronto wrote to Scarborough in June 1988, stating that the inclusion of the corridor in MetroPlan is the result of provincial input and was specifically included at the request of the then Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Surely, if this government really means to preserve the Rouge Valley, it must realize that such a corridor, freeway or expressway is entirely inconsistent with preserving the Rouge Valley. Why has the minister not requested Scarborough and Metro to delete the corridor from their plans? That is how one preserves the Rouge.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would like to remind the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore that the corridor in question is not in the valley. It is some substantial distance from the valley. It is not a similar situation to the Don Valley Parkway traversing the valley. It is a corridor that is aligned as close to the western limits of the study area as is physically possible. Scarborough's own roads plan probably has greater impact on whatever may happen in that study area than any corridor we are looking at.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Harris: My question is to the Minister of Housing. The Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority's policy regarding tenders in the area

of property management states that bidding companies must have a minimum of three years' experience and also that the Metro Toronto Housing Authority will deal only with principal companies, not agents. Both of these policies were contravened by the Metro Toronto Housing Authority board in September, in order to award a lucrative contract to a company owned by Elvio DelZotto, the president of the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario). Does the minister have any concerns with the Metro Toronto Housing Authority decision and the two breaches of its own policies in awarding this contract?

1430

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Members should be aware that operational decisions are made by the Metro Toronto Housing Authority and by the Ontario Housing Corp., and the decision in relation to this particular contract will be made according to the guidelines and by the board of MTHA and the board of OHC.

Mr. Harris: Yesterday, I asked the minister if she could offer the House a single good reason why she fired John Sewell, which she could not do. Mr. Sewell thought the policy contraventions were unacceptable and he opposed breaching the rules of the public authority for the benefit of a private company. Does the minister believe that Mr. Sewell was right to be concerned about the legitimacy of this series of events, or will the minister confirm today that perhaps it was because Mr. Sewell tried to maintain the integrity of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority tender and contract process, making things difficult for the minister's friends and supporters, that she had to fire Mr. Sewell?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: These decisions are all made by the board as a whole. The board of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority has three groups that are members of it: those appointed by the Metro Toronto government, those appointed by the federal government and those appointed by the provincial government, a third each.

This decision, like all decisions, must be made according to the guidelines. If any member of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority board has any concern about those guidelines, and certainly the chairman has every right to be concerned if he wishes to be, he can raise those concerns in the board as a whole.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Daigeler: My question is also to the Minister of Housing. I think the question will be a little bit less aggressive, but nevertheless equally important.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest you place it.

Mr. Daigeler: The city of Nepean has just received an excellent consultant's report on the establishment of a mobile home park. According to this study, modern mobile homes and mobile home communities can offer an economical, attractive and acceptable alternative to conventional housing forms. However, manufactured housing has never been a strong force in this province and municipal opposition to this form of housing is still widespread, although I am glad to say not in my community. Can the minister advise this House whether she shares the reservations about mobile homes or whether she sees them as one of obviously many viable avenues to provide more affordable housing?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member is right. There is a variety of forms of housing, prefabricated housing, various forms of manufactured housing that we have been looking at in our consultations with the private sector and with the building industry as a whole. We are prepared to talk to the building industry about various forms of construction and innovative ways of building housing.

However, when it comes to our nonprofit housing program, we are not interested in pursuing that particular route for nonprofit housing. We are interested in talking to the private sector about any innovative ideas it may have about housing construction, including prefabricated housing and modular housing.

Mr. Daigeler: In this case, it is not the private sector that is interested in the construction of a mobile home but in fact the nonprofit corporation set up by my city. Nepean would be very interested in working with her ministry on a demonstration project that could include a mobile home park in our municipality. May I ask whether the minister is open to discussions with my city, with my mayor in particular, on establishing a mobile home park that would provide affordable housing for a fair number of people?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would be very glad to have my officials meet with the officials of the city of Nepean. As the member knows, we are working actively with a variety of municipalities to sign housing agreements with them. We would be glad to discuss with the city of Nepean the whole question of a housing agreement to deal with a number of issues that we are concerned about, and in that framework we would be perfectly willing to discuss this as a possibility.

But I should say to the member that our approach in the nonprofit sector has been very

much to use a more conventional building method in the nonprofit sector of our building. None the less I would be very glad to have our officials discuss with the officials of Nepean whether we might be able to work out a housing agreement.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Breaugh: I would like to return to the Minister of Housing concerning the awarding of the contract by the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority. I would like an explanation of this, if she can.

In the tender evaluation that was submitted to the housing authority, two other bids were disqualified because of technicalities. I will not bother reading it all. I think it is fairly straightforward that two companies had submitted a bid, and their bids were declared invalid because of technicalities, wrong officers signing and things of that nature. It is also noted that DelZotto Enterprises Ltd. was barred indefinitely by the Ontario Housing Corp. board in 1976.

Despite the fact that some companies were barred because of these technicalities, and that this same group of companies was barred previously; despite the fact that it did not meet their own rules and the fact that they took the final decision, according to our information, by a telephone survey where not all the board members were present, nor did all of them vote, can the minister explain how this company still got the contract from the housing authority?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The question about whether the company was or was not eligible was a matter that MTHA was concerned about and forwarded to the board of the Ontario Housing Corp. for a decision. The board of the Ontario Housing Corp. decided in August of this year that the 1976 order no longer applied to Del Property Management.

However, I should say to the member that there is a procedure established for making these decisions, and if there is any question of ambiguity concerning the MTHA decision, then the next stage is that the OHC board is supposed to make comment. If there is any ambiguity concerning the decision, the OHC board can consider that ambiguity in making its recommendation. It can make one of two recommendations: either to accept its recommendation or to send it back to the MTHA board for further consideration.

Mr. Breaugh: I am afraid I have to pursue this a bit. It was not, in fact, Del that got the contract; it was a numbered company that was set up by the DelZotto group, so that is the first little mistake that should be corrected.

I have read to the minister the litany of companies that were disqualified from bidding for this particular contract because the wrong person signed the form or they did not have the right letter accompanying their bid. Some companies were disqualified because of technicalities. It was noted in evaluating this that this group of companies in fact had been barred from putting forward bids since 1976. It was noted in this report that they did not meet the current rules of the housing authority.

Despite all that, which is here in writing in the tender evaluation that was put forward in front of the board, this particular company, breaking all of the rules, and despite the fact that others who broke only technicalities were discarded, this company got the contract. How did that happen?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: No company has the contract yet. What is happening now—

An hon. member: Give me a break.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am very glad to answer the question, gentlemen. No company has the contract. The next stage of this decision is that it is supposed to go to a committee of the OHC board. The committee of the OHC board is the one that makes the final decision. It has two choices in this matter, according to its guidelines. Its choice is either to accept this contract, which it has not yet done because it has not yet met, or to send the whole matter back to the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority board for a final determination. Those are the procedures and they will be followed.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. Two weeks ago the minister announced that the province would provide \$5 million for the 5,000 apprentices who are waiting to start, or complete, programs that have been postponed. Yesterday the minister could not tell me when he was going to implement these programs.

Is the minister able to implement the apprenticeship programs that 5,000 people are waiting for, and when is he going to do it?

1440

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thought I had made it pretty clear yesterday that when I get a commitment from my government, it will be carried out.

I got a commitment from Management Board to expend that \$5 million for those 5,000 apprentices who were waiting for those programs, and I do not see what the holdup is in the community colleges. These things were not postponed.

I have to make it pretty clear again that the \$5 million that was being expended on that program was due to the fact of the shortfall of the federal government, which did not come through with the apprenticeship funding. They have been doing this funding since 1944 and unilaterally just cancelled out and did not come through with the apprenticeship program.

I want to make it pretty clear to the honourable member that those people who are waiting to get into those programs can go right ahead. The community colleges know that.

Mrs. Cunningham: I would not be asking the question if the community colleges knew that. I would only like to remind the minister that we do have plenty of announcements and this is one I am concerned about. We have policies and programs that this province needs, but right now we have waiting lists for child care and hospitals and now we have waiting lists for apprenticeship programs.

I would like the minister to tell me, even in one instance, some specific program that has been given the go-ahead to proceed with even part of this \$5 million that was announced two weeks ago.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Each region or each community college has its specific programs. I cannot say to the member what program is available and what is being held up. It is the community college in that region that identifies those needs and then it offers those courses. For me to tell the member specifically—maybe later on, if she so wishes, I can meet with her and tell her some of the programs that were on hold at the time when those moneys were not being expended.

They are being offered. The \$5 million is committed and will be spent as soon as those community colleges offer up those programs that are needed and it will be addressed accordingly.

RAIL SERVICES

Mr. Lipsett: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Recently, the mayor of Hanover hosted a meeting in my riding of fellow mayors and reeves, area business leaders, two federal MPs and myself, as well as the proponents of Project ReRail, to discuss concerns about the abandonment of service, removal of tracks and

dispersing of properties by both Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway.

I would like to ask the minister, even though I recognize that this is primarily federal jurisdiction, is the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario exploring ways to maintain freight rail service as an alternative to increased truck traffic to many of our communities in rural Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member is correct when he addresses the issue as one of federal jurisdiction, but it seems increasingly that we are required to give the federal government direction from this province. He is quite correct in his reference to the added truck traffic as well.

Certainly we have a great interest in the issue of the rail-line abandonment and retention of services. Particularly with reference to the member for Grey and his riding, in that general area of western Ontario we have intervened on the retention of rail lines in Owen Sound, Kincardine, Wingham and Southampton.

We have also provided some funding for some of the groups who have an interest in this particular issue, and I can tell the member that we have already arranged a meeting with the Project ReRail group in December.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Lipsett: Has the Minister of Transportation considered asking the federal ministry for a moratorium on branch-line abandonment until it is determined which rail lines are essential to the continued economic growth in the affected areas?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I think it is unfortunate that some members opposite choose not to pay attention to what is essentially a very important issue to the people of Ontario and across this country, which is the abandonment of not only freight lines but also passenger services.

I can tell the member that I, indeed, met with the federal minister in Halifax about a month ago, and he did agree to consult with myself and other provincial ministers across the country prior to any abandonment because he, at least, unlike the members opposite, recognized the impact on communities across this province.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Hamilton West.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to address this to the Minister of Community and Social Services, and I simplify this case which is rather complex.

Sheila Perfitt, on general welfare in London, has \$2 left each week after she meets only her basic shelter costs. She began a manpower training course but had to drop it because of illness which was due, in some respect, to the malnutrition she had been suffering. One week's training allowance of \$105 overlapped her welfare cheque and repayments from welfare were demanded to the tune of 10 per cent of her welfare cheque, even though—and I emphasize this—the collection agency itself said she was too poor to pay and returned the file to the welfare office.

Sheila has appealed to the Social Assistance Review Board, where she will likely lose due to the regulation as it stands.

How can the minister, in all conscience, sit there and tolerate any longer this hard-hearted system of convoluted values and bureaucratic absurdity when he has the Thomson report in his hand and could even now be implementing the first stage of its reforms?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As the honourable member was implying, several of the difficulties that he has just described, in fact, are addressed in the Thomson report and that was precisely why we had asked for the report. I have already indicated to the honourable member that fairly soon I hope to be able to come forward with an announcement as to how we are going to proceed.

With respect to the specific case that he mentioned, let me make two observations. Number one, from time to time, it is true that either family benefits or general welfare recipients do get an overpayment and the current legislation does require that it be repaid. However, we have, to the best of my knowledge, never failed to sit down with the particular recipient to work out a repayment plan that he can handle. It can be a very small amount. That is just the procedure at the present time.

The second point I could make is, as the honourable member has indicated, the appeal has gone to SARB. The honourable member knows that I do not make those decisions, but I can tell him that since the new board has been in place, the percentage of appeals in favour of the recipient has risen dramatically and there is good reason to believe that that might be case in this particular situation.

Mr. Allen: In future days, I want to come back to some further SARB issues, but the minister knows quite well that under the first stage of the Thomson report, Sheila Perfitt would first receive 100 per cent of shelter cost and free up

some money for food. Second, she would receive a training allowance, in addition to welfare, so her income would not decline through the additional cost associated with the training regime. Third, she would maintain her income status until an appeal is complete. Fourth, she would have an opportunity counsellor who would, in this case, have put her on vocational rehabilitation, where she would have had a higher rate of assistance and an education allowance as well, and would have avoided all this mess in the first place.

Is the minister going to get on with the Thomson report and its reforms or is he content that people like Sheila Perfitt continue day after day under the present system with the kind of insensitivity that she is facing and becoming poorer and more miserable in the process?

1450

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Again, the honourable member has accurately indicated what the impact of the Thomson report would be on this particular client. I do not quarrel with that. I have indicated to him that I wish to proceed with as much of this as we can, as quickly as we can. That is still under discussion with my colleagues.

I am sure he appreciates that that is necessary. I also would expect he recognizes that the Thomson report itself very clearly says, in the main body of the report and in the releases that were accompanying the report when in fact Mr. Thomson did make it a public document, that a number of these facets had to be done together; they could not be done separately. That is one of the reasons we are working on it at the present time. I hope to be able to move as quickly as possible on it.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: My question is for the Minister of Transportation. In a letter of October 24, 1988, to the Toronto Transit Commission, the minister noted that his staff is "discussing the opportunity to extend the Spadina subway from Wilson to Sheppard, approximately one mile, as an immediate rapid transit project." While this is a pleasant surprise to the Toronto Transit Commission, this letter signals a change in the long-range rapid transit development plans of the ministry and at the expense, possibly, of the Scarborough residents who have been anxiously awaiting a formal announcement of funding of the Sheppard subway line running east from Yonge Street to Victoria Park Avenue.

Given the fact that Ontario taxpayers will pay 75 per cent of the cost of rapid transit projects,

will the minister stand in the House today and outline his ministry's long-range transit development plans, rather than doing so through private correspondence, thereby laying to rest this possibility of a hidden agenda?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope they are not too long-range.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I could make it as long as the subway line. I reject categorically that I, my ministry or this government have any hidden agenda with respect to transportation in Metropolitan Toronto and across this province. I dare say this government has done more to address the transportation needs of this entire province, and Metro as well, as any government in the history of this province, and especially the one the honourable gentleman was a member of.

I am not sure if the member wants me to include in my answer addressing those needs of York region and specifically his town of Markham. His question seemed to indicate that. What he seems to fail to understand is that the letter of correspondence between myself and the chairman of the TTC was simply a follow-through letter flowing from our announcement last May that we were going to get on with transportation needs and demands across the greater Toronto area in the four regions that comprise that area.

That does not only, or exclusively, mean building a subway line. It means a number of things. Many of those initiatives we have already put in place, if he would look at my announcement of just last week.

Mr. Cousens: What I am really seeing is that the minister does not have an agenda for transportation. The minister has not come forward with a comprehensive program to address the needs of transit riders in Metro. It is something again that is a hodgepodge—he makes a plan here, he does something there. This \$100-million extension paves the way to the extension to York University for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

If the city of Toronto is successful, we will know in September 1990. Is that when he is going to make the announcement to extend it further up that way? When is he going to make the announcement to do any kind of subway work that is really going to begin to get people moving in Metro?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I do not know whether the member was making a speech or asking a question, but he has chosen to read only one part of the letter. The other part, which is the operational part of the letter, is the next step necessary with respect to the Sheppard corridor

to protect it, as well as other options that we are looking at, which he should be well aware of but obviously is not.

Mr. Cousens: Would the minister make the letter public?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did not recognize the member for a supplementary.

NURSING HOMES

Mr. Reville: My question is to the Minister of Health. I understand that at the beginning of September the seven inspectors who used to do fire inspections under the Nursing Homes Act were transferred to the office of the fire marshal at the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the regulations under the Nursing Homes Act relating to fire safety are to be rescinded and all fire safety in nursing homes will be regulated by the fire safety and inspections service of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

I would like to get the Minister of Health's reaction to the problem this creates. At some great cost of lobbying, people interested in safety in nursing homes finally managed to get those inspection reports made public. Under the Solicitor General's operation, those fire safety reports are not made public, and that leaves consumers of nursing home services with less information about the safety of nursing homes than previously.

Will the minister undertake to raise this matter with her colleague the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and urge her to require that her inspectors make fire inspection reports on nursing homes public as well?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to acknowledge the interest and concern of the member opposite for residents of our nursing homes. I think he shares with me and with the members of the government the progress that has been made under the Nursing Homes Act to ensure that both quality-of-life and quality-of-care standards are made available. In fact, the residents of those homes have a greater say in the running of those homes and in their desires.

I think the point he makes is a good one. I think it is extremely important that information be made available regarding the inspections of nursing homes. I think the Nursing Homes Act is very clear in providing the information to be made available to the residents of the nursing home and I would assure him that we will make sure that the standards as established in the Nursing Homes Act are adhered to.

Mr. Reville: That was a lovely answer, but it kind of went a bit past my question.

There is a second problem I would like to raise. A few years ago, an inquest into some deaths in nursing homes indicated that it might be appropriate not to have people requiring heavy care on the upper floors of nursing homes because of the obvious difficulties in removing people in that condition in the case of an emergency. That recommendation, of course, has never been acted on.

What would be required in this case is to bring the regulations and standards under the Nursing Homes Act into the Ontario fire code to ensure that we have the best possible standards. I am sure the minister would want that.

Will she, again through her good offices, urge the Solicitor General to give this House an early commitment to act on the recommendations of the inquest into the Extendicare deaths and bring forward appropriate revisions to the Ontario fire code so that we can ensure that our nursing home residents have the highest possible safety standards?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the member for his question, because it gives me an opportunity to restate in this House the fact that I believe my responsibility is to ensure protection of the public and quality assurance, whether our residents are in public hospitals, in independent health facilities, in nursing homes or in any of the government-funded programs across this province. I take this responsibility extremely seriously and can assure him that my priority will always be protection of the public and quality assurance.

NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Has he convinced the Liberal leader of the federal party, John Turner, to change his position with regard to the location of a national space agency, which he has said is going to be in Montreal if he is elected Prime Minister of Canada on November 21? Has he changed his mind? Has the minister talked to Mr. Turner about this and changed his mind?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I should tell the member from the third party that I am really concentrating my efforts on talking to the federal minister, Mr. de Cotret, who has carriage of this at the present time and who has declined to give me an answer.

1500

Mr. Sterling: I would like the minister to tell me when he first met with Mr. de Cotret with regard to this particular subject and how many times he has met with him—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: I am getting a bit of coaching.

Has he had meetings specifically to discuss this matter with Mr. de Cotret or any other minister in the federal government, and when were those meetings?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I cannot give the member the exact dates, obviously. I do not keep a diary so that I can do that. I can check on them and tell him. But I can tell him this: I have met, I would say, on at least five occasions with Frank Oberle, the Minister of State (Science and Technology). I have met with Mr. de Cotret as recently as a week ago Monday.

I have made representations and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has made representations. We cannot get them to make a decision, because of the election. I predict that the day after the election they will announce that it is going to Montreal, if they win. That is, of course, something that is problematic.

PETITIONS

PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition to His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, which reads:

"We, the undersigned, are concerned about the frequent use of pesticides and herbicides (plus their solvents or carriers) by the companies which spray lawns, the hydro, the parks and recreation departments and the ministry of roads and transportation.

"We believe they are harmful to ourselves and our environment. Therefore, much stricter laws should govern their use, safer alternatives must be substituted and until safe alternatives are used, all areas sprayed must, by law, be posted with warning signs and watering down after application be strictly adhered to."

This petition is signed by 284 people from a large number of towns, cities and municipalities across Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: I would just like to inform the House that I found it very difficult to hear that last petition. It would be much better if we kept the private conversations down.

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have several petitions, bearing a total of 288 signatures of concerned citizens from many parts of Ontario, mostly from the area of Alma and the county of Wellington. The petitions read as follows:

"The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, the undersigned, would like to see the Lord's Prayer and Bible reading reinstated as part of our education system."

I have signed these petitions.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mr. Faubert: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, hereby petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The undersigned strongly object to the alignment of the east Metro transportation corridor through the natural heritage park proposed by the Save the Rouge Valley System Inc. and request the provincial government to seek to study alternative alignments."

This petition is signed by 30 residents of Scarborough. I have appended my signature thereto and hereby submit it.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Furlong from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr42, An Act to revive Rockton Winter Club Inc.

Bill Pr53, An Act respecting The Peterborough Historical Society;

Bill Pr55, An Act to revive 288093 Ontario Limited.

Your committee recommends that Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the City of Toronto, be not reported.

Your committee further recommends that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr53, An Act respecting The Peterborough Historical Society.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Charlton moved first reading of Bill 184, An Act to amend the Ontario Energy Board Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Charlton: The purpose of the bill is to give the Ontario Energy Board additional powers to regulate rates and to investigate matters such as capacity, price and source of supply.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 180, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AMENDMENT ACT

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member for Oshawa has some further comments to make.

Mr. Breough: I want to put on the record some concerns that I have about this particular bill. I will not try to do an analysis, as the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) did, because I think it would be folly to try to match the effort she put into that. It was just an excellent analysis of what a bill purports to do, what it will actually do and what alternatives might be put in place.

I do want to join with many other members who have expressed their concerns about this purported reform to the system and about the basic system itself. I think most members here will have several experiences that they simply cannot get out of their minds.

I recall the first occasion when I had the chance to sit at a kitchen table with a widow of someone who had died, in this case at Johns-Manville, a plant that was located in Scarborough. Many of the people who worked in that plant lived in the Oshawa area and throughout the region of Durham. Even though it has been some time now, and even though the company itself has moved out and many of the workers have moved away from our area, I still recall the anguish that was on that woman's face as she tried to understand, in the first instance, what had happened that would cause the death of her husband and, in the second place, why something that every one of them knew was not being accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board.

That is a difficult thing for me, as a member, to recall. It is much more difficult, obviously, for that woman and her family and for those other

workers from that same plant who still have not, in their estimation, had their cases resolved by the Workers' Compensation Board.

It is a tragedy that the company is no longer in business here, has in fact gone back to the United States, and the agency that is set up by the government of Ontario to deal with those questions has not managed to get a resolution of the problem to what the workers themselves would consider to be a reasonable level.

1510

One of the things I think many members will experience is that, unlike in many other kinds of constituency work they do, it would be highly unusual to find a constituent who is happy with the decision of the Workers' Compensation Board.

Most of the agencies that adjudicate, as they do, will provide the spectrum of people who think they have been dealt with fairly, those who think they got a just settlement. The one exception to that rule, I think, is still the Workers' Compensation Board, and it will remain so under this proposed legislation. It is the one thing that is clear in its consensus: that it does not do what it purports to do, although it has been said since the board itself was founded that if there is to be an error made, it should err on the side of the injured worker. I think the actual experience by almost everyone who has come in contact with the board over its years, no matter what the rules were, no matter who chaired the board, is that it rarely, if ever, does that.

The great tragedy, of course, is that there are those who have suffered death because of industrial accident or industrial disease, and even though the people have died, the board refuses to acknowledge that it had much to do with its area of responsibility. In part, it is because it is not an easy matter to adjudicate these things. In part, it is true that it has been difficult for a long time to gather the information, the scientific evidence.

But it is not true to suggest for a moment to widows of miners from Timmins that they do not know what caused the death of the miner. They do; and it is evident to them, to their families, to the community in which they live and, I dare say, to the representatives who are here at Queen's Park from those areas. That is known by them. It can be denied by a great many other people, and it is; but the great tragedy is that the compensation board and its processes have been unable to deal with those matters over long periods of time.

I want to cover a couple of other things that are part of this bill and this process.

There is a centre in Downsview called a rehabilitation centre for injured workers. One of the most difficult things I believe any member has to do here is to try to explain to his or her constituents that there is a necessity for them to go to that rehabilitation centre. In many of our communities the word is out on that centre, and has been for some time.

It has been the subject of inquiries; it has been the subject of newspaper reports; but worse, and perhaps more effective in terms of having people form an opinion, is that among the workers of Ontario, the centre has probably the worst reputation I can think of. It is a place that has caused great pain and great misery to a number of people over a long period of time.

It is not particularly that the people who work there do not try or that there is not some effort made to rehabilitate people. I think it is perhaps that the reputation of the centre itself has something it cannot get over, and that is despite the fact that, once again, attempts have been made to reform it.

I recall in the last year sitting down with a couple, and in this instance, it was the wife who had been asked to go to the rehabilitation centre. Her husband and she herself were both most dismayed that she would have to go, and it was my task to try to explain to her how the workers' compensation process works.

I tried first to explain to them that this was not like the country they had originally come from, where being sent to a government institution has a far different connotation to it. I tried to explain that they did not really have to go, in the sense that she was being sentenced there, but I did try to explain to her that it would make the compensation process very difficult if she did not attend.

Of course, the husband was very worried because at that time the newspapers were full of reports of problems at the rehab centre. The word in the plant where he worked was that it was not a very nice place to be, and of course, the wife, who was the injured worker in this instance, was nervous and upset, first of all because she was in pain and second because she was asked to leave her home, her family and her personal support system to receive care in an institution about which she had great doubts.

In the way that ordinary people often do, she put some very sensible suggestions. She wanted to know, for example, if this was a place where you received care and treatment, why could you not go to the Oshawa General Hospital? That, of course, is a very good question. Why is it necessary to leave your home, to leave the

doctors you know and you trust, to leave your family, who could visit with you, to leave your own bed? Why did you have to travel to some place in Toronto?

That is a good question. Why do workers have to travel from all over Ontario, on occasions when they are in physical pain and under great emotional duress, to one centre?

The truth is that I could not explain that to her, because I do not believe that there is a good reason. I do not know why they do. I do not know why workers have to go to one central rehabilitation centre. I do not know why they cannot go to a local hospital. I know if they fell on the street, if they had any other kind of accident in the community where they live, they would go to the closest source of treatment and they would be able to be treated there by people whom they know, people they trust; by a doctor they might not have dealt with before, but a physician whom somebody in their community knows.

That is basically, in my experience, how people sort out something like the medical profession. It is unreasonable to expect that my constituents all know who is a great surgeon in Oshawa, and they will not be able to grab that surgeon's certificates and sort out who has the best training. What they care about and what they know about is: Has anybody whom they know been treated by this person, and were they treated well? Were they given some measure of respect? Was the operation successful? Was the rehabilitation something that worked? Were they able to get this care in a setting they understood?

There would be my first suggestion for the government. I do not know why, traditionally, people are sent from all over the province to one centre. I do not believe that is necessary. I believe that they have talked about it for some time and they do in fact encourage people to get second opinions, and you need that if you want to go through the appeal process. I do not know why the travel is necessary. I do know that, whatever might be done in that centre, it will be almost impossible for this government to turn around the opinion of workers across Ontario that that is a bad place and that an alternative must be found.

I want to speak a little bit, as others have, about rehabilitation, both vocational and physical. Some will argue that the rehabilitation centre is necessary because a specialized set of skills will be developed. I am not convinced in the least that that is true. I do know the fear that people have about going to that centre. I do know that in many ways people's emotional status and the attitudes that they bring to a treatment facility are

in many cases as important as the physical treatment that is provided. I think there is a need to look at rehabilitation in a different light, both physical and in terms of vocational.

I want to speak just briefly about vocational rehabilitation, which is kind of an ugly word for taking someone who has been injured in the workplace and trying to get him ready to go into a different kind of workplace. In many places that problem used to be resolved by the fact that there could be, for example in General Motors, a main production line, and around that line there were a lot of odd jobs that had to be done. People had to do tidy-up jobs; people had to do cleanup jobs; people had to do general maintenance jobs; people had other departments that they could go to. So if you were an injured worker at General Motors in Oshawa, for example, it was not uncommon that somewhere in your first seven years of employment on the line you would suffer an injury, or some kind of debilitating set of circumstances would occur that meant that you physically could not do that job on the line any more, but there was an array of other jobs in the factory that you could do. That array of other jobs has diminished substantially over the years. There is not the variety of types of employment, the kind of lighter work, the kind of seniority jobs people could gravitate into should they suffer an injury.

I noticed that much discussion in our caucus, for example, has centred on the idea of dual awards and whether that is a good thing or a bad thing or whether the particular types of dual awards that are in this bill are supportable or not. I think the basic problem that I would face with this is simply that, in principle, there is nothing wrong with the idea of dual awards, different types of awards being given. What I think most people are saying is that you cannot do that kind of adjustment to the process when you have not made a substantial change in both the attitude and the way in which the board works; that there is no amount of renaming, of providing different classifications of awards that will substantially alter the circumstances under which an injured worker must live the rest of his or her life.

1520

That, in a nutshell, is the problem. It is not a problem of the principle of different kinds of awards being made; it is a problem that the credibility of the system is at stake and that there are no substantive changes being proposed that the people who will be the recipients of this system either understand or accept as being worth while. That is the problem.

The problem basically is that this is not considered to be a revenue-changing process that is under way. I believe the term being tossed around these days is that it is revenue neutral. There will be adjustments made. As soon as people understand that, as soon as they read that, they then know it does not really matter how they jigger this thing around; nobody is getting anything more out of the system.

That, I think, is one of the major mistakes in this proposal. If the minister had said to injured workers in Ontario, "You are finally going to get something which is akin to justice," they might be prepared to listen to any change in technique, any change in the kinds of awards that the minister wanted to discuss with them. But until he is prepared to acknowledge that they have for many years paid a hard economic price for the sole problem of being injured at work, they are not going to be very receptive to any proposals of this kind.

I have listened for some time and I have seen people go through what are called rehabilitation programs of a different kind. Again, it is not that they cannot work; it is just that they never have—at least, not for very long or certainly not for very many people. One of the basic problems the government has to face is, essentially how realistic is it to take a worker in his or her 40s or 50s and train him or her for another job?

I have seen rehabilitation programs run by the Workers' Compensation Board that attempted to take workers, for example, from the Johns-Manville plant who were not well educated in the traditional school sense, who had worked in one industrial setting for 20 and 30 years and who were in their late 40s and early 50s, and send them, under a rehabilitation program, to Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology.

For many of us, particularly if you deal with it as an academic exercise, that sounds like a reasonable thing to do. Where it breaks down is simply that when you talk to those workers, they more than anybody else know that this is a farce, that sending them to Durham College at that stage in their life with their type of education and their type of work background is foolishness.

They took it because they had no other choice. They did it because they knew that is what they had to do. They had to play the game, they had to play along with the system. They went there and they knew there was no sane reason why they were at that college. They knew there was no chance, coming out of that program, that they would get another job. They knew that no such

job existed. They knew, in fact, that they could not be retrained.

One of the things the government has to do—and it is not done in this bill—is to recognize that there are some workers coming off injuries who cannot be retrained. Mine is an industrial area, so we have had this unfortunate situation too many times. You cannot take a worker who has spent 30 years in one plant doing one job, who does not have elementary skills in literacy, who cannot speak his own language comfortably, much less another language, and reasonably say to him at the age of 49 or 50 or 52, "We can retrain you to do something else." They know better than that. That concept has no credibility with them.

I think the government is, at some point in time, going to have to deal with the matter of what you do with injured workers at a certain level in their lives. Male or female, it does not matter where they are or where they work; there are some to whom it has no credibility to suggest, "Just hold on and we will retrain you." They know better than that. Sadly, they probably know better than that because something has happened in their community to someone they know in the last little while where he too was supposed to get retrained.

It is not the compensation board alone that faces this problem. This is one that is shared by a number of other government agencies responsible for employment, retraining and a lot of other government programs. The fault is not a fault, I would say, of those who try to run the programs. It is not a fault of the idea; it is not basically that it is wrong. It is simply that people often do not want to recognize that this does not work for everybody. We should know enough about it now to simply acknowledge that one hard fact, that there are some with whom we cannot really fool around and say, "We're going to retrain you to go to a job which does not exist."

One of the things that has been discussed for some time, here and in other jurisdictions, is some sort of universal scheme that does not necessarily mean you have to go through a process like this. One of the things that concerns me a lot is that if you took all the energy, money, expertise and people devoted to the Workers' Compensation Board and tried to turn that into a positive experience, you would have a tremendous resource at your disposal.

One of the things that always makes me very angry is the amount of money, personnel and resources this government and the previous government and many other governments around

the world put into maintaining a system. I do not know that it would be a consensus in this chamber, but many members would think that this system is nonproductive. It does not do anything for anybody. I would classify these changes as being ones that are hopeless in the face of that background. They cannot work, simply because there is a level of understanding among injured workers in Ontario which creates an animosity.

They see how the other side lives; they also see it as the other side. That is part of the problem. They do not see this as a place where you go for fairness. They see this as a place where you go and are treated with no respect. It works on a system that you do not understand. It is an adversarial system and it works against you, the injured worker. It begins with a very negative attitude.

One of the things that I think is most difficult for members is to try to be fair, because it would be wrong to rail against the compensation board and the people who work there as being evil. They are not. One other little example that I would like to put on the record this afternoon remains in my mind, much like sitting at the kitchen table of Jean Rozema, the widow whose husband died at Johns-Manville.

On one other occasion, one of the things I did was that, during the course of a mail strike, I was asked to go and pick up some cheques for some injured workers in my riding. I went to the compensation board headquarters on Bloor Street. I cannot quite forget the way people were treated there, the way they were literally herded about the building, the way their names were yelled in the midst of a mass of people, the way they had to stand in line on their crutches to get their handout from the government, the way people looked at them, the way people said their names and the hatred they had in response to that system.

That kind of stuff is scary. It is scary from a number of points of view because, as a member of the Legislature, I know that the people who were working there that day, the people who were handing out this mail, these cheques, were frightened, as frightened as the injured workers who were standing in front of them. They too were uncomfortable. They did not know how to handle this. It was as awkward a moment for them as it was for the injured workers. The difference, of course, was that there were guards standing around the room, there were guards standing around the lobby of the building. It is difficult for many of us to understand the attitude

of many injured workers who come from different nations and the reaction they have to any kind of guard. It is quite a different experience and it is quite a tragic one.

Let me conclude with another of my consultants, a guy named Wilf Duffield, who worked for a long time at General Motors in Oshawa and who has developed over the years a certain expertise in how to deal with the compensation board. I must say that Wilf Duffield, like many others, has developed his own little sense of what the compensation board is. I know of no one else who so understands the ins and outs, the rules and the regulations, the procedures and the way the board works. He is not a lawyer. He has worked at General Motors all his life and he is now retired.

Even in his retirement, people turn to Wilf Duffield because they know he understands the process. He always has time for them and he has never charged anybody a cent in his life for helping, advising, going to a meeting on their behalf or seeking more medical opinion on their behalf. He knows where to get that information. He knows how to use it. He knows how to appear in front of a tribunal. He knows because of his long and experienced years in the trade union movement. He knows the opportune moments to take a break. He knows when to talk to somebody who is making a decision. He knows how to talk to him. He has all those skills that someone who has negotiated in the trade union movement will gather around him over 30 or 40 years.

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His comment on the bill was simply this. He said to me the other night at a dinner in Oshawa: "You know, the old rules used to be wrong, but one thing they had was that you always had a chance to go in and make an argument about the person who was sitting before the tribunal that day. You had a right to make your case, and no matter what anybody else did, no matter what other rulings were brought forward, maybe this guy was a little different. Maybe his case was a little bit different. Maybe they ought to listen to the particular circumstances surrounding this individual human being."

In many ways, it reminded me of conversations I have had with lawyers about the judicial process. In their world, they argue cases and precedent and they bring forward facts, statistics and analyses, but in the end, that whole judicial process is about making sure that one individual is brought before the courts and is given a reasonable chance to explain his or her side of the story.

Wilf went on at some length to explain to me that one of the things that is wrong with these proposed changes, this set of reforms, is that it will diminish the right of an individual to make his or her case heard before the Workers' Compensation Board.

I think he has a point. Certainly, if I were hiring or advising, one of the things I would want to get in terms of expertise on the board is people around Ontario who have spent their years fighting the board.

I do not begrudge anybody a nice office, nice furniture or a good place to work, but one of the things that does bother a lot of injured workers in Ontario is that when they come here, they go into downtown Toronto to a big office building to see where the Workers' Compensation Board is situated. That bothers them.

One of the things that disturbs them is that they cannot figure out why almost every other kind of service is available in some degree in their own community, and the Workers' Compensation Board is not. They want to know why they have to drive in and out of Toronto all the time to present evidence, to appear at hearings, to appear in front of the board's doctors, to appear at Downsview. They do not understand that, and neither do I. I do not understand why they have to leave their home community to come to one central source. In the past few years, the board has tried to address that problem by moving to regional centres, and it has some difficulty with that. I do not pretend for a moment that is an easy thing to do.

But I offer in conclusion this little bit of advice. The compensation board has been seen for a long time now as the enemy of the injured worker, and no matter what you do, it never will overcome that. It never will become an efficient and effective mechanism of seeing that injured workers do not pay an economic price for their industrial accident, it never will get to that stage, until the government first gets it to cease to be seen as the enemy, as it is now. It never will get anywhere until it leaves downtown Toronto and gets out to where people live and work in Ontario. Whatever the government does, it must do that.

There are many people, for whatever reason, who associate coming to Toronto with evil things, with bad things, with not being a pleasant experience. There are others who see it in quite a different light, but I think this: If I were in pain, if I were injured, if I were threatened with economic loss for the remainder of my working career, I do not think I would like someone to say

to me, "You have to leave home and go elsewhere, to a strange city, to a strange group of people and explain your case to them." I do not think you could reasonably expect me to feel other than anger and hurt that I am the injured party and I am the one who has to inconvenience himself and his family to go to a situation where it is unlikely any kind of justice is going to be given to me.

There is, among many other things, a perceptual problem about the board. The main problem, for me, in this bill is simply that the bill does not pretend to do very much and it does not do very much. It does not pretend to do much other than to jiggle the system once again, and that is not what is required. It does not do much to convince injured workers that they are finally going to get some measure of respect for what has happened to them.

There has been talk for a great deal of time now about industrial accidents and industrial illness, things that happen in the factory and in the workplace. I think all of us who have observed that for a while know that in many workplaces workers are safety conscious, companies are safety conscious and people are trying to prevent industrial accidents. Not all of them can be prevented. If they could be, we would never have highway traffic accidents either, but you cannot; they do happen.

What happens after that point is what becomes critical, and what does not happen with this bill is probably more significant than what does. In my view, and in the view of many people I represent, it does not do anything of any great significance. I know the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) would not agree with that, but in my instance, I am not particularly worried about what he might say. I am more concerned about what my own constituents say about this.

In a nutshell, exactly what they have said is that they want simple things. They want some respect, they want some justice and they do not want to pay an economic price in addition to the physical and mental anguish they go through.

I think many of us who have observed the system for a while would give this as kind of the concluding observation about the Workers' Compensation Board: If you have an accident at work in Ontario, you are lucky if it is a clearly defined, physical problem that emerges.

To go back to what is not going to be called the meat chart any more, but is a meat chart, the best route is to lose a finger or an arm or a leg. The compensation board seems able to deal with those types of injuries. The worst injury is to

strain your back or your knee, and worse yet is to do it over a long period of time. Even worse than that is to have some kind of an accident or illness that is caused by a minute amount of aggravation over a lengthy period of time. They seem unable to cope with that altogether, even when you die. That is sad.

I think many of us had great hopes that after all we have learned, after all we have studied, after all we have argued about the Workers' Compensation Board in Ontario, we would have come forward this time with a reform of substance, with a change of a substantial nature.

I would say that the first test of that has been for the government's proposals to fail, because the people it has to please are not us. There are very few members here who will appear as a victim before the compensation board. The people the government has to impress with this are the injured workers of Ontario and they have already given the government its first response.

The second instance will be when the bill goes for public hearings, as I am now told it will. It will be critical now that the Minister of Labour and his staff listen carefully to what they have to say and try to find ways that in some small sense reach out to them, because if you had a court system that was in this type of situation, if people going to court felt they would never get justice, if they felt they would never get respect, we would all admit that the judicial process had broken down. In many ways, the system of adjudicating an industrial accident or an industrial illness has indeed broken down totally.

We look forward to the remainder of the debate, and I hope it will be a substantive one, and we look forward to what will often be a most difficult set of public hearings, but a most necessary one.

I do hope the minister listens and I do hope he learns as he goes through this process, because it is not an easy task to understand how the injured worker in Ontario feels about this system.

Once you get some understanding of that, which is a real abhorrence, a real feeling that there is a gross injustice under way, then you begin to understand why, even though the minister is proud of the reforms he has announced in this bill, it does not nearly begin to address the problems that are there for injured workers in Ontario.

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That is why we will oppose the bill on second reading and why we will try our very best to see, as it goes through public hearings, that at least

there is an opportunity for the people who are directly impacted by this bill to put their case.

With the huge majority it has, the government does not have to listen to anything we say. It does not have to listen to any of the groups that come before that committee or any of the individuals who appear. But it will be to its everlasting disgrace if it decides that it has invented the only system that will work and that no further changes will occur. It will be to its everlasting disgrace if it turns out to be no better than the previous government in addressing the very serious problems these people have.

That is not a particularly pleasant thought to end on. I think I speak for many members on all sides of the House when I say that if there is one agency of the government of Ontario that needs dramatic reform, it is this one. If there is one agency that causes us a great workload in our constituency office; and perhaps more important than that, causes us great mental anguish; and even more important than that, causes our constituents mental and physical pain, it is the Workers' Compensation Board.

It has been said to me and to many members that you begin this process by having physical pain, and that when you have dealt with the compensation board long enough, you begin to experience the mental and emotional pain that is caused by the process. It is far worse than any pain caused by an industrial accident—a harsh statement told to me, consistently, in my constituency office and on the streets where I live. That is a scathing review of a process put forward by a government agency.

I wish them well in their job; it is certainly not an easy one. I hope the government listens to what members on all sides have to say on this proposal, on this bill. I hope, more important, that it takes heed, as it goes through the committee stage and the public hearing stage, of what people have to say about this process and about these proposed reforms.

It is not just that we are saying it is not enough. It is not just that we are saying that more money has to be spent. We are saying the process is fundamentally flawed and causes, at great public expense, great problems for the people we are supposed to serve. That is wrong.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Are there any comments or questions pertaining to the speech?

Miss Martel: Just briefly, I want to thank the member for Oshawa for expressing some of his concerns here today about the bill. I want to pick up on two things he said. The first is this, that in

terms of the right to appeal, which is a concern he has heard in his riding, he is very much correct. A worker's right to appeal, under the new system proposed by the Minister of Labour, is dramatically curtailed.

That happens in two areas. There will no longer be an appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal in the areas of pensions and pension reassessments, and second, in the area of disputes between employers and employees about what constitutes suitable modified work.

I think the minister, in questions we have raised, has not yet responded adequately as to why that right is going to be curtailed. Why, for a system that we put in place in 1985—that is the appeals tribunal—is he now allowing a spirit to undermine that agency and take away the right of workers to appeal in two very important areas under this system? He has yet to address that and to tell this House why he is doing that, and if in fact that is going to be the future move of the Ministry of Labour in terms of the response to WCAT.

Second, I just want to make a comment about what the member said in terms of the hearing process. He talked about that at length yesterday. I think members of this House should recognize that every time there have been substantial changes to the Workers' Compensation Act, there have been hearings. Those hearings have taken place across the province. It was surprising to us that the minister would not agree immediately to those or that the government House leader could not agree immediately to those, when that has been the precedent set in this House in terms of compensation.

There are thousands of workers out there who will be affected by these changes, who are affected by the compensation board now. To even appear to deny them the right to a public hearing was beyond belief. It was too bad that the demonstration took place here last week and that that was the extent injured workers had to go to to ask for some respect and at least be heard on this bill. I certainly hope members of this House appreciate what happened last week in that regard.

The Acting Speaker: Does the member for Oshawa wish to reply? Do any other members wish to participate in this debate?

Mr. Adams: I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the debate today. Like the member for Oshawa and other members, my staff and I work with injured workers on a daily basis. We work with them, their unions,

their employers and their physicians. My staff and I applaud every effort that is made to improve the Workers' Compensation Board system. Today, I would like to address my remarks to the workplace integration features of Bill 162.

From the moment it took office, this government has made clear its concern about vocational rehabilitation and re-employment efforts on behalf of injured workers. In May 1986, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), then the Minister of Labour, appointed the Ontario Task Force on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The task force was asked to do a number of things. It was asked, "To examine the vocational services provided by the Workers' Compensation Board.... To assess the adequacy of funds expended by the Workers' Compensation board.... To explore strategies to identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, injured workers" who require vocational rehabilitation.

It was asked, "To examine approaches for providing...rehabilitation services...through the integration of vocational rehabilitation claims ...and medical services." It was asked, "To examine the role of vocational rehabilitation in facilitating the hiring of injured workers. To explore the appropriate role for retraining and re-education.... To examine the extent to which the Workers' Compensation Board's vocational rehabilitation service is dependent upon vocational evaluations and to determine the"—appropriate—"role for the board, the private sector and nonprofit organizations in providing vocational evaluation services." It was asked to examine other related issues the task force considered important.

As members know, the task force responded with a comprehensive report containing 84 recommendations. As one might expect, given its mandate, most of the recommendations dealt with administrative matters within the purview of the Workers' Compensation Board. Indeed, the report contained only five recommendations that necessitate legislative amendment. I would like to address each of those five in turn.

First, the task force recommended that the board's name be changed to Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Board. The government examined that. It would be great symbolism, but with what results? The government concluded that it would be far better to devote its efforts to actually enhancing vocational rehabilitation services.

The task force also recommended that workers have a statutory right to vocational rehabilitation. Bill 162 does just that. No, it is not an unlimited right. There must be an evaluation to determine whether a vocational rehabilitation program will be of assistance to the injured worker.

Third, the task force recommended that the act be amended to spell out the definition of what "rehabilitation" means. The task force's clear intent was to ensure that the whole person is dealt with, not just physical impairment. With that we agree. We considered introducing a definition, but chose instead to maintain the current flexibility, to ensure that an individual's unique needs can be addressed in a rehabilitation program.

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However, the bill does specify a number of services which may be included in a vocational rehabilitation program. These include vocational training, language training, general skill upgrading and employment counselling.

Before I go further, I would like to address the issue of who is eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation and whether there are any limits on the length of a vocational rehabilitation program.

Any worker who has suffered a lost-time injury is entitled to vocational rehabilitation services where such are appropriate. There is no statutory limit on the length of a vocational rehabilitation program. That is why, for example, Bill 162 provides for vocational rehabilitation supplements where an injured worker is receiving an economic award for wage loss.

The task force also recommended that all cases that have been open for more than 30 days be referred to vocational rehabilitation service. That was considered too, but we were reminded that there are many cases where a worker will recover fully but the recovery takes longer than 30 days. Automatically referring everyone for vocational rehabilitation after 30 days would therefore be inappropriate, impractical and a misuse of scarce resources.

The route we chose instead is to use a two-step process. First, the WCB is obliged by Bill 162 to contact the injured worker if he or she is still off work 45 days after the injury claim is registered with the board. The purpose is to determine whether the worker requires any vocational rehabilitation services, which could include social counselling. Indeed, the WCB has already provided for special counsellors to provide that sort of assistance.

Why 45 days, you might ask? The WCB has estimated that 80 per cent of injured workers

return to work within 45 days of filing the injury claim.

As a second step, Bill 162 provides that where a worker has not returned to work within six months of the injury, the board is obliged to contact the injured worker and offer the worker a formal vocational rehabilitation assessment.

If at either stage the WCB determines that the worker will benefit from a vocational rehabilitation program, then the board is further obliged to consult with the worker and, where possible, with the employer and the worker's physician in designing the program.

This involvement of the injured worker in his or her rehabilitation program goes beyond anything recommended by the task force. The task force recommended that where an injured worker disagrees with the vocational rehabilitation program being established, he or she will have the right to appeal. Bill 162 does not in any way preclude such appeals through the board's internal appeal system or to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal.

The task force further recommended that the WCB take a proactive role in promoting job modification by increasing its ergonomic staff. That is, of course, an administrative matter, but here again, the bill goes beyond the recommendations of the task force. Bill 162 specifically states that a vocational rehabilitation program may include WCB assistance to an employer to adapt the workplace to facilitate an injured worker's return.

The task force also recommended that the injured workers should have a right to return to their pre-injury job or, where a worker is no longer capable of performing that job, the right to return to another job in the same enterprise.

Bill 162 acts on that recommendation and in some respects goes further. First of all, the bill obliges employers to reinstate injured workers in their former positions or, where that is not possible, in an alternative job of a similar nature and with similar pay.

Second, where the worker is unable to perform the essential duties of that position, the employer is obliged to offer the injured worker the first suitable position that comes open.

Third, and this is where the bill begins to go beyond the task force recommendations, the Workers' Compensation Board is authorized to penalize any employer found in violation of this re-employment provision. The penalty is to be equivalent to 90 per cent of the injured worker's net annual earnings.

Fourth, where the worker has suffered a wage loss as a result of the employer's refusal to re-engage him or her, the WCB is authorized to pay over to the worker whatever part of the penalty is necessary to maintain the worker's income at 90 per cent of pre-injury earnings, net of taxes.

Fifth, in addition, during an injured worker's first year of absence from work due to the injury, the employer is obliged to maintain contributions to any workplace health care, life insurance or pension plan to which the worker belongs.

Not only does this provision protect the worker from an immediate loss of benefits for self and family, it also serves to strengthen the continuing employment link between the injured worker and the employer. This obligation, I should point out, is contingent on the worker maintaining his contributions where the plans so require.

The government is serious about doing all it can to facilitate the injured worker's return to work. I believe the approach set out in Bill 162 will make a tremendous difference. However, a number of members in the opposition parties have been quite critical of these provisions. In part, this is because they are not open-ended and do not have time limits on them.

I would point out that reinstatement provisions are relatively rare in employment law. It is extremely difficult to force an employer to hire or rehire a particular employee. The bill provides that the reinstatement period will not be open-ended. After a replacement worker works for a time, a new employer-employee relationship develops. The replacement worker becomes part of the organization in his or her own right.

In this context, open-ended reinstatement is not appropriate. That is why the government has decided to limit the reinstatement period. However, we should not forget the impact of a wage-loss system on an employer. The longer an injured worker is off work, the greater is the cost to employers for the wage-loss compensation flowing to the injured worker. For those employers involved in an experience-rating system, this will have a very direct impact on their WCB assessments and on their bottom line.

Small business has the most difficult time coping with employee absences from work. That is why we chose to exempt employers with fewer than 20 employees from the re-employment obligation. Those small employers will, of course, still have the same economic, as well as moral, imperatives to re-engage injured workers.

Others in this debate have expressed concern with respect to the exemption of the construction

industry. Again, we have tried to take into account the practical realities of the industry. For starters, this is an industry that does not have continuity of employment. A contractor only has jobs to offer as long as he or she has a construction contract to undertake. When he or she has such a contract, he or she must get on with it.

Construction workers tend not to build up a long-term employment relationship with any individual employer, as they move from contract to contract as work becomes available.

Furthermore, in the unionized construction sectors, construction workers are not hired by the employer, but through the hiring hall. We could hardly oblige the employer to reinstate an injured worker where the selection of the worker is determined by the hiring hall. An alternative would have been to interfere with the hiring-hall process. We chose not to disrupt that long-standing arrangement.

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As members know, Bill 162 contains a provision which would allow the extension of this exemption to all the classes of employment by regulation. We did that because we were concerned that there could well be other situations in which the tough reinstatement obligation set out in the bill would prove equally unworkable. Any extension of the exemption would require cabinet approval, and I can assure this House that such approval will not be quickly granted.

The task force also recommended that where an injured worker's previous employer has gone out of business, the WCB should assist the worker to find alternative employment. We agree, but here again Bill 162 goes further than the task force recommendations. Bill 162 provides that wherever a vocational rehabilitation program requires a search for different employment, the WCB shall assist the worker for up to a year following rehabilitation.

The task force also recommended that section 9 of the Human Rights Code be incorporated into the Workers' Compensation Act. In fact, that is not necessary. The Human Rights Code is an overriding statute and already has precedence.

Finally, the task force recommended that a tripartite committee consisting of labour, government and industry be established to convert the recommendations of the task force into regulations. We already have that body. It is called the Workers' Compensation Board.

I would like now to remind members of the make-up of the current Workers' Compensation

Board in this province. The community worker representatives are Joe Duffy, Cliff Evans, David Mackenzie and Almerinda Rebelo. The community employer representatives are Chuck Hantho, Steve Hessian, Paul Richards and Michael Warren. From the medical community we have Dr. Maria Zorzitto. These are all hardworking, dedicated private citizens who serve on the board as part-time members in the interests of working men and women in this province and their employers.

In addition, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal sits on the board, as an ex officio member, in addition to his tribunal responsibilities. Of course, as everyone here knows, a graduate of this assembly, Dr. Robert Elgie, serves as full-time chairman, ably assisted by Dr. Alan Wolfson, who is president of the WCB.

Theirs is a difficult and all-too-often thankless task. The criticism notwithstanding, I can assure members that there are thousands of workers and families that do appreciate the board's efforts on their behalf.

The remainder of the recommendations set out in the task force report are administrative details which do not require legislative change. Indeed, the board of directors of the WCB has already taken a number of steps to give effect to the task force report recommendations. A new vocational rehabilitation strategy has been adopted and is being tested. This will pursue the regionalization and localization of services so strongly recommended by the task force. The board has already begun to purchase additional rehabilitation services in the community. As the capacity to deliver them increases across the province, the WCB is prepared to utilize them so long as the quality of service is maintained.

The task force called for vocational rehabilitation services to become one of the central thrusts of the compensation system; Bill 162 does that. The task force called for early intervention; Bill 162 does that and more. The task force called for workers to be equal partners in vocational rehabilitation; Bill 162 does that and more. The task force called for reinstatement; the bill does that and more. Finally, the task force called for revitalization and regionalization of board vocational rehabilitation services, and this is well under way. The member for Oshawa mentioned this.

The regionalization is something that my staff and I have been pressing for since I was first elected to this House. In Peterborough, we

appreciate every move towards regionalization of WCB functions.

In conclusion, I am convinced that Bill 162 will have the desired results and will result in workers returning to the workplace much more quickly and in even greater numbers.

Mr. Wildman: Wrong again.

Miss Martel: I want to go back to exactly what Majesky and Minna said in terms of rehabilitation and reinstatement.

In the case of rehabilitation, they said there had to be a statutory right to rehabilitation for every worker suffering a serious injury. "Serious injury" was defined as a worker who was off work after 30 days. Nowhere in this bill is that guaranteed.

In terms of reinstatement, Majesky-Minna said there had to be a statutory right to reinstatement for all workers in this province. We look at the bill and we see that the bill does not apply with respect to the construction industry, establishments with fewer than 20 employees and any subclasses that may be exempted in the future. Already, we have 25 per cent of the population exempt from any type of reinstatement under this bill. That is a far cry from what Majesky-Minna said in their task force report.

Let's go back to what else they said. The grave problem they saw at the board was that if the board did not have to provide rehabilitation services, then the board did not do that. They heard horror stories, thousands of them, of people who had never been offered adequate rehabilitation, because if the board had a choice it did not allow for that and it did not provide that.

Let's go back to the bill. Subsection 54a(2) says immediately, "Where, in the opinion of the board, a worker should be provided with a vocational rehabilitation program." It is completely left to the discretion of the board if a worker should have rehabilitation or not. Is that the answer to Majesky-Minna?

Let's go on. The member talked about early intervention. It says in the bill that there shall be intervention within 45 days; it does not say that the worker shall be provided with services. It says, in fact, the board shall provide such services to the worker if the board considers it appropriate to do so. I am trying to tell the member that there is nothing in here that goes anywhere near what Majesky-Minna demanded.

The Minister of Labour, in this Legislature, had a golden opportunity to look at those recommendations from worker and employer representatives and move forward in rehabilita-

tion. He failed to do so. He did not even have the courtesy to change the name of the bill, which would at least have given a symbolic step forward to rehabilitation in this province. I think it is a farce.

Mr. Black: I would like to commend the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams) on his comments. Many of us listened with great interest as he spoke.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to draw the member's attention to the fact that he is not in his own seat.

Mr. Adams: As a still-new member of this House, I would like to comment on the fact that the member for Sudbury East and her colleagues in the official opposition seem to think that they are the only people who deal with injured workers and who work with and for injured workers. I have to say that in Peterborough, in my office, more than half of my time and the time of my staff—and it happens that I am a member who has allocated most of his staff to the constituency office, not to Queen's Park—are devoted to these matters.

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I would like to say to the member for Sudbury East that, like her, I am very concerned about the problems of injured workers, but unlike the official opposition, I am interested in moving forward, albeit slowly, but at least moving forward to improve the system that we have, with all its faults.

I have to say that the improvements which are contained in this bill are both worth while and practical, and I think the members of this House and the people of this province know that both of those things are necessary. It is not enough in our society, where there is great competition for the few resources that we have, to have a good idea or an ideal one aspires to. The idea or the ideal has to be translated into practical reality. It is my view that this bill does exactly that for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Wildman: Just before I begin my remarks, I do want to say that it is unfortunate that the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) should take exception to the way I was participating in a debate. I think it is most unfortunate that the member for Durham-York should be credited with the remarks that were made by someone else who was sitting in his seat. I know the member for Durham-York would not have reacted that way.

I do say, though, in participating in this debate, it reminds me a little bit of a French farce.

The reason I say that is that whenever we deal with the Workers' Compensation Board it is like one of those plays, one of those theatrical productions where we have the script which is written so that it appears to say one thing but in fact everyone in the room knows that it means something else—quite the opposite. That is what we have here in this legislation, Bill 162.

All of us in this House know the kinds of problems that workers experience in dealing with the Workers' Compensation Board. We all agree that the Workers' Compensation Board at present has a system which is arbitrary, unjust and demeaning to the injured worker. I do not think there is anyone in this House who will debate that.

The question then arises, as the member for Peterborough indicated in what I thought was a thoughtful presentation but one which I genuinely believe was incorrect in its conclusions—because what we have is a bill which purports to improve a system which is beyond reform, which is not capable of being improved, it is so bad that—

Mr. Faubert: O ye of little faith.

Mr. Wildman: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere says, "O ye of little faith." I suppose since he has not been in this place very long and he has not had to deal with the compensation board as long as many of us in this House, he can still have some faith in the compensation board.

Mr. Faubert: I have 42 cases right now.

Mr. Wildman: If he has that many cases, how he could have any faith in the justice of the compensation system is beyond me.

Mr. Faubert: They are working.

Miss Martel: If they were working, they would not be in your office.

Mr. Faubert: We are resolving them.

Mr. Wildman: If the member is resolving them, I am happy. I am glad for the workers that he is able to help. I am glad; but the question then arises of why we have a system where workers have to come to their member of the Legislature to resolve their problems. Why is it that we have a system that is so unworkable for the worker and his union that he has to seek the intervention of a lawyer or a member of a workers' help group or a member of parliament? Why is that? It is because it does not work.

The board makes a great to-do of the fact that only 10 per cent of the cases it deals with result in problems for the worker. That sounds like an interesting statistic, until one realizes that 10 per cent of the current case load of the Workers'

Compensation Board amounts to about 40,000 workers, somewhere in that neighbourhood, a year. When one takes into account, all their families, one sees the tremendous number of people who are not being served by this system that the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has so much faith in.

Mr. Faubert: I'm talking about the new one.

Mr. Wildman: When the member raised his intervention, I was talking about the current system, which I believe is arbitrary, unjust and demeaning. I think the member is talking about working to resolve cases in that present system. I hope he is, anyway, because if he is working on the basis of the new system which has not been passed into legislation, then he is not serving his workers very well.

I think Bill 162 is a significant attempt to change the current Workers' Compensation Act, but I genuinely believe that this attempt to change the legislation should be rejected. I will explain my reasons in a moment.

Since the change of government, we have seen some improvements to the workers' compensation system. It established the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal, and we had the expansion in the Ministry of Labour of the office of the worker adviser. All of us in this House are aware of the tremendous backlog of appeals before WCAT, the formality involved in appeals to WCAT, the legalistic approach that WCAT seems to take. We are also aware of the tremendous backlog of cases for the worker adviser.

Also, we had the establishment of the office of the employer adviser. I do not think they have nearly the same backlog, but they are also swamped with work. The reason they are swamped is that the board is serving neither the workers nor the employers well.

In the time that I have been here, I have never met anyone in my riding who is satisfied with the workers' compensation system. Employers are unhappy with the amounts they are being assessed. They are unhappy with how long it takes to resolve difficult cases where their employees are injured and off the job. Workers do not get their cheques on time. Even though the act says they are supposed to have the benefit of the doubt, they have a very difficult time proving that an injury, particularly a back injury, is in fact work-related and getting the compensation they deserve.

There are tremendous holdups. The whole system is frustrating and is designed, I think, in a way to make it very difficult for either the worker

or the employer to get the kind of service he requires and should get from this system.

That is why, in this debate and throughout the years, this party has suggested a positive alternative, an alternative that would work better, we think, and would be cheaper both for the employers and for the government; that is, a universal sickness and accident insurance plan, one that would not be adversarial, would not require so many investigations, would not require appeals and quasi jurisprudence; a system which would compensate people who are hurt, no matter how they are hurt or where they are hurt; a system that would provide people with the kind of benefits they require to support them when they are off work and give them the kind of rehab services they need to assist them to get back into the workforce.

It is not as if this is just some pie-in-the-sky idea, something we just came up with on our own. All of us in this House know that there is such a system working. We have suggested that the government should study the New Zealand system to see what aspects of it could be applied in our jurisdiction.

Of course it is not in the interest of the Workers' Compensation Board to study this because, in essence, what it would do is debureaucratize the whole system. It would mean that the workers' compensation empire that has been built up over the years would be threatened. So if it is left to the Workers' Compensation Board, we will never get a genuine study of a universal sickness and accident plan.

1620

That is why we think it is important that the government initiate such a plan. We are open to see what the conclusions of that study might be. We think they would be positive. But what is the fear on the part of the government? Why will it not initiate such a study? Other provinces have looked at it. Saskatchewan has looked at this and, prior to the change of government in that province, there was consideration of setting up a similar plan.

Why will Ontario not look at it? Instead, it brings forward Bill 162, which in our view is an outright attack on injured workers in this province. Instead of increasing the rights and benefits of workers, as the bill purports to do or as members of the government in this debate have said it does, it does the opposite. That is why it reminds me of a farce.

We just heard the speech of the member for Peterborough in which he talked about the

Majesky-Minna report and he said this bill responds to the five recommendations with regard to integrating injured workers into the workforce; it does them all and more, except for changing the name. In fact, it does not at all. What this bill would do is increase the discretionary powers of the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I do not need to remind you that the Workers' Compensation Board already has significant discretionary powers with regard to how it treats injured workers. That discretionary power has not resulted up until now in fairness or justice for injured workers in Ontario. In fact, it has been the complete opposite. The board has continually used its discretion to limit benefits, to deny rehabilitation and to deny entitlement for workers.

The member for Peterborough argued that this bill has provided the right of rehabilitation recommended by the Majesky-Minna Ontario Task Force on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Workers' Compensation Board. My colleague the member for Sudbury East has pointed out that there is no statutory right in this legislation. In fact, even though the member said it did this and more, it does the opposite.

The Majesky-Minna report said the right of total rehabilitation—physical, mental, social, vocational and economic—should be established for every injured worker. But under this bill, further limits are placed for the first time on rehabilitation assistance for a worker seeking employment.

As the member admitted, it is a maximum of one year. He seemed to think that one year was a great thing. Knowing how long it takes the board to operate in this province and the length of time it takes to make decisions, one year is not very long. The worker can apply for a supplement only if he or she has already begun a rehabilitation program, whereas at present supplements are awarded if the worker is waiting to start a program. In other words, we have a board that has not nearly the number of rehabilitation programs and staff that are needed to provide adequate rehabilitation for injured workers in this province. They are not able to meet the need already.

We are saying that if the worker has not already started on a program, he cannot get the supplement. Unless there is a significant improvement in rehabilitation in the province, this is going to mean the denial of supplement benefits for many workers who are not being

served properly by the rehabilitation department of the board.

The member for Peterborough made a great to-do about the fact that the bill says it will oblige employers to reinstate injured workers in their jobs. As the member for Sudbury East pointed out, the member did not talk about the exclusion. In this province, 25 per cent of the workers are excluded from that.

What I find particularly alarming, though, is that the bill states that classes or subclasses may be exempted in the regulations. We have no idea of what other groups will be exempted from reinstatement. The member for Peterborough said that if it was found that it was difficult or onerous—I think those were the words he used—to require a certain segment of the economy to apply this requirement, it could be exempted. He assured the House that this exemption would not be expanded easily. He said it would have to be approved by the cabinet. That is no great assurance to me or to the members of our political party.

Also, I find it very strange that a bill presented in this House which is in fact dealing with an adversarial system would have included in it a provision which says that the board can decide if the employer has met his obligations. If the board decides that the employer has indeed met his obligations, and the worker disputes that, the worker does not have the right to appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal, which is the highest stage of appeal under the current system.

Why on earth are we saying the board can decide and there is no right to question that at the highest level? Of course, as the member for Peterborough indicated, the employer's obligation is not open ended. I think those are the terms he used. It only lasts for two years. An employee can be terminated six months and one day after being rehired, and the employer would then be seen by the board to have fulfilled his obligations. That is not fulfilling his obligations, in our view.

The member for Peterborough tried to argue that over six months there would be the development of a new relationship between the employer and employee and therefore it would be unfair to continue the old relationship of a required reinstatement in a job. Those are mealy-mouth words and they do not do any credit at all to the members of the House who are defending this legislation.

We have had a lot of discussion in this debate about the dual system of pension benefits. All of

us agree that the meat chart is a despicable approach to dealing with compensation for injury on the job. We have all said that we should be getting away from the approach of saying so much for a finger, so much for an arm, so much for a leg, so much for an eye, and so on. We should be looking at actually compensating workers for their inability to support themselves, their inability to work, their economic loss.

The problem with the provisions of Bill 162, again while they purport to get rid of the meat chart and to deal on a fairer basis with the loss of economic power of the worker, is that we are going to see that many pensions granted under this new system are much smaller than the pension that workers are able to get at present. Nobody says they are adequate now.

The principle of a pension for life is destroyed under this legislation. I do not think that is acceptable. The further problems that have been mentioned in the debate are that only two reassessments are permitted, and only if a significant deterioration not anticipated at the time of rating occurs can there be a reassessment. Again, the amount of a pension decided by the board under this system cannot be appealed to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal. Why?

Everybody here knows that it is a confrontational system. It is a system in which tribunals have to decide disputes. This again is an example of the Workers' Compensation Board being given increased discretion on how a worker should be treated and denying the worker the right to appeal to a body that can decide at the highest level whether or not the worker has been properly treated.

1630

I am particularly concerned about the new benefit for the future loss of earnings under this legislation. According to the legislation, the amount payable is 90 per cent of the difference between what the worker earned before the accident and what the board believes he or she is capable of earning after the accident. In other words, the board has to decide what kind of job the worker is capable of doing after assessing his or her injury, the after-effects of that injury and the long-term effects of it.

If the board decides that this worker is capable of doing a certain job, then the board has to determine, through going to Statscan or whatever, what the worker's earning power would be if that worker could get that job, and then determine the amount paid on the difference between what the worker earned before the

accident and what the worker might get if the worker were getting that job.

The problem is that the worker may or may not have that job. In fact, in northern Ontario, the biggest problem we have is that many workers in small towns, usually one-industry towns, resource-based communities, who do not have a lot of formal education, in many cases do not have a great capability with the English language, when they are hurt cannot continue the job they were doing before, whether it is working in the bush or working underground in mines. But there are no other jobs. It is fine to say this person could drive a cab or this person could paint buildings or whatever; but if there are no cab drivers needed and if there are no painters needed, they are not making anything in the workforce. They are not in the workforce.

How on earth is a system that is set up in this way going to serve the workers of the small resource-based communities? I do not see how the member for Peterborough can justify his confidence. I have too many French-Canadian lumberjacks who made good money when they worked in the bush but who have broken their backs and can no longer work in the bush, have very little formal education and are going to get screwed by this provision of the board if this legislation passes.

Also, obviously, under the system that is being proposed under Bill 162, if the benefit is granted it is reviewed after two years and five years or whenever the board considers appropriate in the circumstances. Again, that is further discretion for the board. I do not apologize for not having any confidence in the board and the way it uses its discretionary powers.

The bottom line is that the change from the present pension scheme to a dual system represents a drastic cutback in workers' benefits and dramatic savings to employers. That may please employers, but it is not going to make it any more of a just system for workers in this province.

In my reading of this legislation, it is an attempt to respond to the Minna-Majesky report. It is an attempt to make it appear that the government and the Workers' Compensation Board are going to be doing more for rehabilitation of injured workers in the province to integrate them back into the workforce and to improve their pension benefits. In reality, it is going to have the effect of enhancing the discretionary power of the board, limiting the appeals allowed for workers and making it more difficult for workers to gain the kinds of benefits

they need to support their families. It is not going to provide for realistic rehabilitation of every worker who is injured in this province, and it is certainly not going to provide for a system that will enable workers who are capable of working to get back into the workforce in any sizeable numbers.

I think the proof is in the pudding. The fact that there are provisions which will prohibit appeals to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal indicates that the drafters of this legislation and the minister admit to themselves that this system is not going to serve workers properly, workers are going to be dissatisfied and they are going to want to appeal decisions, and so the minister and the people who drafted the bill for him have decided to cut them off at the pass. What this is going to say is that the board will be able to make decisions, and workers will not have the right to appeal at the highest level.

If they are certain that this is going to serve workers the way it is supposed to be going to serve workers, why do they fear the right to appeal to WCAT? In my view, this is one more example of doublespeak. We have a bill that says we are going to provide rehabilitation and reinstatement and more benefits for workers when, in fact, it is going to do the opposite. It is another example of tinkering with the workers' compensation system, and I think it is doomed to fail, the same as every other attempt to tinker with that system has over the years.

In fact, we have a system that was first put in place in 1915 and has not changed a great deal in that time. In 1915 it served as a model for other jurisdictions as progressive legislation, but after more than half a century, I think it is time that this province and this jurisdiction, that this government took the opportunity to again bring in landmark legislation on how to deal with injured workers in the workforce, not just workers who have received a physical injury but workers who have sustained industrial illness because of their work, and also to deal with people who have been injured in other aspects of their lives and who, as a result, are not able to continue in the workforce.

It is time for this government to seize the opportunity and say, as a previous government did in the early time of this century, that we must do something that has never been done before in this province and in this country to provide for proper benefits for people who have been injured and who have sustained illness and who, as a result, are not able to support themselves as they have in the past.

We do not even have to go to the point of having new milestone legislation, legislation that has never been done before. All I am suggesting is that this government, if it is serious about responding to the needs of injured workers in Ontario, will study at least what has been done in New Zealand to see if it can be adapted to our jurisdiction and stop pretending that by making a few changes here and a few changes there to the Workers' Compensation Act, it is indeed responding to the needs of injured workers.

All this is going to mean, I say to the member for Peterborough and his colleagues, is more cases in his office. I do not suppose that is a reason for voting against the legislation, but certainly if it means more cases in his office it means more problems for injured workers in all of our constituencies and more difficulties with an enormous bureaucracy that has tremendous discretion to decide on the future of lives of injured people in Ontario.

That is what is going to be the result of this legislation. Enough of these farces; it is time for innovative action. The government should at least study the possibility of a new system, a system that will properly serve the injured workers and the people who are unable to support themselves on the job because of sickness and accidents.

1640

Miss Martel: Very quickly, my colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) also picked up where I left off and talked a little bit about rehabilitation provisions in the bill. I want to encourage members of this House, if they do anything, to please pick up a copy of Majesky-Minna and read through the summary at the back, where they outline, in section 15, what rights should be available to workers in terms of total rehabilitation, what is needed to stop the problems that are going on in vocational rehabilitation at the board now. If they compare what it requested and demanded and said was needed to what appears in this bill, they will find out quite quickly that we are nowhere near where we have to be to respond to those concerns.

I repeat that nowhere in this bill is the statutory right to rehabilitation guaranteed. It was the principal recommendation of Majesky-Minna that there had to be a statutory right to rehabilitation for injured workers if we were ever going to get on to the business of retraining people and getting them back into the workplace. I encourage all members to take the time to read it and then compare it with what is in the bill. They

will see why we are so concerned about these provisions in particular.

Mr. Campbell: I rise at this time to speak on this bill because, as my caucus knows, I spend a lot of time and energy on WCB cases. I currently have, at last count this morning, 261 cases. That is growing steadily.

With 261 cases, members can sense my frustration in dealing with a system that has been a difficult one in which to properly represent those injured workers. The sense I have is that with that frustration comes a desire and a need to reform the system.

I am concerned when I hear others speak about our needing a larger system, more bureaucrats dealing with, essentially, a system that needs to be more responsive. I believe that Bill 162 does begin to meet the needs and frustrations that many of us, as members, have. Every member of this House, regardless of partisan affiliation, has come to recognize through his or her everyday constituency work that the most frustrating and difficult bridge an injured worker must cross is that leading back to active participation in the workplace, and recognition of that fact in this bill begins to address the kinds of things we need.

The WCB has been providing vocational rehab services to injured workers since 1924. The scope of this vocational rehab program has broadened during the intervening 64 years to include a variety of occupational and social services, concurrent with increasing the standards of professionalism.

The system has to go further. In recognition of a reality, the WCB, over the last decade, has increasingly devoted greater resources to the expansion of vocational rehab services. The commitment is illustrated by the board's expenditure in 1987 of \$200 million on vocational rehab. Furthermore, 200 WCB staff are involved in the provision of vocational rehab services.

Bill 162, taken together with the recently announced vocational and medical rehab strategies, will substantially increase this commitment of resources. The result is a more progressive, humane and efficient system of workers' compensation in Ontario that aims to dissolve paternalism and endow the injured worker with the dignity and respect owed him or her.

This bill before the House today is a product of a revitalization process that began in May 1986, when the former Minister of Labour established the Ontario Task Force on the Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Workers' Compensation Board. As was just previously dealt with in the House, the task force was co-chaired

by Maria Minna and Wally Majesky. It has been quoted widely. In September 1987, 16 months later, this task force reported its recommendations to the government of Ontario.

A large number of these recommendations have been incorporated into Bill 162 and the WCB's medical and vocational rehab strategies. We agree with the task force that the number one priority of the WCB should be to assist the injured worker to return to employment, and for that reason it should not be surprising that the most crucial and significant reforms in the field of voc rehab recommended in that report find direct expression in Bill 162.

Before I was elected to this House, I was chairman of the welfare board in Sudbury. If any of the members know about our community, they know what devastating economic problems we had in our community earlier this decade. We put together a task force to try to diversify our economy in Sudbury and, we found a number of strategies we had to deal with. We had to study how we could, with all forms of help, deal with the kinds of things we had to deal with, especially people who were in the middle part of their life being dislocated severely, laid off from their jobs. We found that the single most important component was early intervention, the kind of early intervention called for in this bill.

The thing that amazes me the most is that, up to this point, it goes on and on with delays, and finally the worker is lost in the system, when in fact a number of occupational medical doctors in this jurisdiction and in the United States have said the earlier the intervention of medical strategies, the more complete the rehabilitation. I think it is important for us to realize that this kind of thing has to happen. There is no doubt that a number of people who are on this system experience delays.

A number of other cases have been solved. I am a former client of WCB. My case was not serious; it was not a type of injury we are talking about today. It was handled very quickly and expeditiously, and maybe that is the reason: It was simple and straightforward to handle.

A number of these recommendations, which are featured in Bill 162, are calling for better access to rehab services and earlier intervention, and that is the point I want to stress again. It is the early intervention that will straighten out a lot of these problems. Before anybody else says it, that it is not the whole answer—I realize that—but it is a step to getting the process going.

One of the major amendments will require the WCB to contact an injured worker within 45 days

of the injury and provide proper rehab services if this is appropriate. Injured workers who have not returned to their pre-injury jobs within six months will have the right to a formal evaluation of their rehabilitation needs. Where an injured worker is to participate in a vocational rehabilitation program, it will be designed in consultation with the worker, the employer and the worker's physician. We believe that the spirit and practice of partnership will result in more speedy recovery and return to active participation in the workplace.

The WCB is already responding to the early intervention theme of Bill 162. The board of directors has embarked on a number of administrative reforms that will revolutionize the medical and vocational rehabilitation services provided by the board.

Another key amendment that reflects the recommendations of the task force report concerns the reinstatement of injured workers. The intent of this amendment is, as much as possible, to return the injured worker to his pre-injury employment status.

1650

Where the injured worker has been with the employer for at least one year, Bill 162 obliges the employer to re-engage a recovered injured worker in his or her former position where he or she is able to resume the work. Should the worker not be able to perform the old job, he will be entitled to the first suitable job that becomes available. This obligation to reinstate will remain in force for up to two years after the injury.

Reinstated injured workers will be protected by existing job security provisions, but in addition, where the injured worker is dismissed within six months of the date of reinstatement, there will be a presumption that that action was taken in violation of the re-employment provisions of the act. The presumption in favour of the worker will be open to a rebuttal by the employer.

We have included in Bill 162 an incentive for employers to reinstate injured workers in good faith by requiring employers who fail to meet their obligations to re-employ to pay an amount equivalent to 90 per cent of the worker's pre-injury net earnings for one year.

Bill 162 recognizes that a small business does not have the ability to shift human resources to fill a vacancy; nor is a construction firm able, because of the seasonal nature of much of the work and the specialized function of many workers, to allow a vacancy created by an industrial accident to go unfilled. Therefore, it

should be noted that the re-employment obligation will not apply to establishments that employ fewer than 20 workers or construction crews.

It is expected that the obligation to re-employ the injured worker will make it less likely that an accident will result in permanent exile from the workplace, but as an additional bridging measure connecting the injured worker to his employer, Bill 162 will require the employer to continue to pay pension, health care and life insurance benefits for up to one year after the accident.

Bill 162 provides the injured worker who is undergoing vocational rehabilitation with additional income support, whether the injury is of a temporary or a permanent nature. For example, if an injured worker is temporarily disabled and is participating in a vocational rehabilitation program, he will continue to receive temporary disability benefits that will maintain the injured worker's net earnings at 90 per cent of the pre-injury level. If the worker's injury is of a permanent nature, he will be entitled to compensation under the new dual-award system, which will compensate for both lost earning capacity and noneconomic loss.

All in all, these amendments mark a watershed in the development of vocational rehabilitation services in Ontario. The new system of vocational rehabilitation we are proposing in this bill seeks the active participation and input of both the injured worker and the employer, not in a relationship of master and servant but as equal partners in the process.

Miss Martel: I want to take a run at rehabilitation again, since it has been mentioned by the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell).

Let me go back to a couple of the points he made, the first in terms of early intervention. Certainly it was a requirement or a request made by the task force that within 30 days the board intervene to see if rehabilitation services should be offered, and then, correspondingly, to offer those services. If we look at the bill, we see quite clearly that within 45 days the board must contact the injured worker, but the board is not under any obligation to provide rehabilitation services. I ask the group over there, what good is it to have early intervention and then not be obliged as well to provide services?

Second, after six months the board shall contact every worker and offer that worker an assessment. If we look at the bill, an assessment refers to a study of the injured worker's vocational characteristics, his age, etc. Again, even after six months, even after this assessment, the board is not obliged to provide rehabilitation

services. What is being offered? It is no good to say that we have expanded rehabilitation, that we are making a commitment to rehabilitation when in fact there is no obligation on the board at any point to provide those services, even after an early intervention, even after six months.

If we go further, for the first time we see in the rehabilitation provisions that there are now time limits placed on rehabilitation services. For the first time ever the board will, for a period of six months, and perhaps a year if the board considers it appropriate, provide assistance to a worker who is seeking employment. That is the first time ever that there has been a time limit set on rehabilitation.

Second, if he goes back to subsection 54(a)(1), he will find out that this section applies only to workers who are on section 40 benefits. You can receive rehab only if you are on section 40 benefits. Those benefits last only 18 months. Again, for the first time ever, workers can get rehab for only 18 months, if they get it at all.

Mr. Adams: If I might comment on the remarks of my colleague the member for Sudbury, I think they illustrated a point I tried to make earlier. His experience on the welfare board and the experience in his office in the Sudbury environment are good examples of experience that members on this side of the House have in dealing with some of the most difficult injured workers' cases in this province. The points that he made about early intervention—the physical and psychological importance of early intervention—the points he made about access to rehabilitation and the aspects of that which are dealt with through regulations in association with this bill, through the regionalization of rehabilitation facilities, are extremely important aspects of what we are discussing today.

Despite the remarks we just heard, I think the reinstatement provisions are among the more important in this particular bill, the rights that workers will have to their own positions or something very close to them. I would repeat, and my colleague from Sudbury recognized, that we know that in the most ideal and pure of all worlds there would be a different system. But this is a practical bill. It sets out things we can do and things that, if there is no obstruction, we can do fairly soon to improve the workers' compensation system in this province.

Mrs. Sullivan: I want to respond to one or two points that were put forward by the member. I think one of the things we recognize is that there are barriers in terms of rehabilitation, which were

raised earlier by the member for Oshawa. He talked about literacy, language and age, but one of the things this bill ensures that rehabilitation looks at is that vocational rehabilitation does not guarantee a magic cure for all workers. The decision as to who will benefit from voc rehab is a medical one and one that is best determined by the medical experience and the medical experts from the board.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any further comments or questions? Does the member for Sudbury wish to reply?

Mr. Campbell: The kinds of time limits to get someone into the system and going, instead of sitting and being constantly frustrated at a lack of action, are the start to it, because there is a double part to this thing. We found, for example, in a very parallel system—and I want to say that it is not a lack of experience that leads me to speak to this bill, because of the experience we had in Sudbury, because the experience of early intervention meant that the recovery was more complete.

My colleague the member for Peterborough mentioned a psychological situation which, along with the economic situation in that case, was every bit as devastating. I think that to deal with an early intervention of the system makes the system work that much better, with more people through the system and fewer people who are on a long path that leads nowhere. I am concerned that we get moving with all of the rehabilitation medical knowledge. We know in North America and in Great Britain that early intervention means a more complete recovery faster, enabling the worker to get back into the workplace at a much faster rate.

1700

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other members who wish to participate in this debate? The member for Hamilton Mountain.

Mr. Charlton: I would like to start by extending my congratulations to you on your new appointment as Chairman of the committee of the whole House and wishing you the best in that job over the coming years. I hope that we do not, on every occasion that you are in the chair in this House, put you to sleep.

I would like to take a few moments to start my comments on Bill 162 by saying that, having listened not so much to the minister as to some of the government backbenchers speaking here today and last week, I guess I honestly have to conclude that there is some sincere interest on the part of individuals to deal with some of the

problems that we have identified over the course of the last 15 years with the Workers' Compensation Board.

On the other hand, having concluded that, I also have to conclude that these well-intentioned members do not at all understand the system into which they are dumping these injured workers, and this afternoon I am going to go through a number of cases that I have handled myself as illustrations of how this legislation will or will not work. Some of those constituents I will be able to identify; others, I will not, but I can certainly describe the cases, at least.

I think it is time each of us in this place, because this is an extremely important piece of legislation, started to understand what the specific applications of this legislation will be, not just what our good feelings and intentions might be. I think injured workers have spent a long time listening to goodwill and good intentions, and they are still finding themselves in the position of having to come to this Legislature and to ultimately lose their tempers, as they did two weeks ago, in their frustration with trying to find some justice in terms of what they have already suffered, let alone what sufferings the future may hold.

In that vein, I want to say that the good intentions being expressed here indicate to me either that the members of this government party are not being straight with us totally—and because of the good intentions I have sensed, I cannot conclude that—or that they just do not understand the system.

I listened to the minister, for example, in his opening statement, when he introduced the bill, talk about the injustices that injured workers have suffered, talk about the inadequate pensions that injured workers have had foisted on them under the current system and laud this bill as a remedy for that. I find it extremely strange to listen to both the opponents of this bill and the supporters of this bill, from outside of this place, at least. The opponents of this bill say that the pensions are not going to improve under this piece of legislation, and the supporters of this bill outside of this establishment also say precisely the same thing.

I just want to read a brief quote into the record. This is in a publication put out by the CFIB, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business:

"Some good WCB news, for a change, in Ontario. As a result of intense lobbying by the CFIB, in association with the Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation, Bill 162 proposed several significant changes to the Ontario

Workers' Compensation Act. The proposed WCB reforms include an Employers' Council on Workers' Compensation recommendation for a wage-loss system for permanent disabilities that provides for noneconomic loss in addition to projected wage loss."

These people, the same as the rest of us, have looked through the legislation and have had lawyers look through the legislation to understand and interpret how it will be implemented and how it will be imposed on injured workers. This is the last part of the quote: "In addition to projected wage loss, this is an improvement over the current system"—I want the members to listen to these words carefully—"which overcompensates 80 per cent of existing injured workers on pensions." It overcompensates 80 per cent.

Here is a supporter of the government commenting on this piece of legislation, which the government is standing here in this Legislature trying to sell as a package that is going to make a better deal for injured workers who have permanent disabilities; this is the government's supporter. Yet the Canadian Federation of Independent Business is saying that this bill is an improvement because it is going to reduce pensions. They are saying that this bill is going to reduce pensions, and that is good because the current system overcompensates 80 per cent of those in receipt of pensions. This is the government's legislation. This is the cure-all for injured workers in Ontario. Then you wonder why they are storming up the stairs outside. It is not just injured workers who know that this bill is not going to do what the government is telling us it is going to do.

The minister, in his opening statement, also talked about eliminating the meat chart, but he has not eliminated it; he has just moved it. He has not only moved the meat chart, he has moved it into this new noneconomic loss category. As my colleague the member for Sudbury East said in her opening remarks last week, not only is the meat chart still there but, in the way it is now going to be applied, it is far worse than it ever was. Why is it far worse? Let's run through some of that for a minute. I will start to pull in for the members some of the examples from cases that I have had of my own.

What we have here now is a noneconomic-loss provision to provide an injured worker with some compensation for the permanent nature of his disability: for pain, for suffering, for the loss in social and family terms that results from the permanent disability and so on. But it is going to be based on the medical extent of his injury. That

is the meat chart. That is exactly what the meat chart is: a medical assessment of an injury.

So we still have the meat chart. We have moved it to a new place. Now it is going to provide less benefit than it did before, because the bulk of the benefit, theoretically, is going to be made up under the new provision on future loss of earnings. We are going to get smaller noneconomic pensions for injured workers based on the same meat chart that we have always had.

If any of the members have had any significant experience at dealing with injured workers with severe permanent injuries, they know that for the vast majority of them, they are being reassessed every two, three or four years, and their pension is being increased every two, three and four years because they deteriorate, the pain gets worse and their ability to walk is sometimes lost.

1710

I have had one case where a gentleman, Claudio Rea, came to me first in 1978. He was a construction worker. It was a back injury. We all know that back injuries can be very deceptive because the human body still seems intact and we cannot see the nature of the injury when we stand and look at it. They still look like whole humans, regardless of what they may be going through inside in terms of pain, in terms of inability to sleep at night, in terms of their total inability to do the job they have always done and known, and in many cases, relating to the only skills they have. But they deteriorate.

This piece of legislation allows for an assessment of a noneconomic loss, presumably at the same point it has always occurred, when the doctors say they have recovered as much as they are going to recover and the rest of their disability is permanent in nature. That is the point at which they will be first assessed. Then this piece of legislation allows for two additional reassessments in their lifetime.

Since 1978, I have watched Mr. Rea deteriorate at a fairly significant and rapid rate. When he first came to me, his back was in bad shape but he could still walk. On a number of occasions, he even tried to return to his construction job.

Mr. Rea in 1988, 10 years later, is totally bedridden. With substantial help, he can get into a wheelchair for very short periods of time to get himself to the bathroom and to accomplish other functions like that, but he cannot even spend very much time in the wheelchair because sitting is a very serious and major problem for Mr. Rea.

Mr. Rea essentially has been reassessed almost annually since he first came to see me in 1978, and it is all legitimate reassessment,

because he is deteriorating. He is getting worse each year. This bill, except for the two-in-a-lifetime reassessments, eliminates all of that for Mr. Rea.

I am not sure that it is even worthwhile in Mr. Rea's case to get into a discussion of the future-loss-of-earnings question, because I am not sure just how, under the new system, the board would even try to assess what Mr. Rea's earning capabilities are.

In the meat chart system Mr. Rea is not totally disabled, although in fact he is totally disabled. In the way the board operates, and I will demonstrate this in another example in a few minutes, Mr. Rea is not totally disabled. He could theoretically work for 20 minutes every once in a while when he is sitting up in his wheelchair if he could find a job that he could do just with his hands. His education is very limited and he has no other skills, so I am not sure exactly how the board would deal with the assessment of future loss of earnings in Mr. Rea's case. I assume under the new system, if and when we have another Mr. Rea, and we will, they will have to try to figure out a way to deal with that question.

This brings me to discuss for a minute the future-loss-of-earnings provision in another specific case. In this case, I cannot use the name, but I can describe the case fairly clearly so members can understand it.

This woman worked in clothing and textiles. All of us have seen in the movies at one time or another some representation of that kind of work. Although somewhat better than some of the older movies we have seen of the sweat shops, in terms of the nature of the work it has not changed significantly in most of the textile and clothing shops, in this country at least.

This woman's injury is lower back, neck and shoulder. She is unable to return to her former employment. We have a situation in a case like hers where she has language difficulties. She now has physical restrictions in terms of the kind of work she is going to be able to do. The board does accept that much, but not very much more.

This is the board, as one woman described the compensation board in the way it views situations like this, that the minister is asking us to trust in terms of questions like future loss of earnings and the right to and the need for rehabilitation. This is a woman who has no other skills; she has worked as a seamstress all her life. She has language difficulties and a limited education as well. Her former employer says: "Well, I have no work this woman can do. I can't

find any modified work in my case." I will come back to the reinstatement question later because I want to deal with the future-loss-of-earnings question now.

We have had a number of government members, including the minister, stand up and describe for us how that future-loss-of-earnings stuff is supposed to work. Again, as my colleague the member for Sudbury East pointed out in her remarks, the board has already started to implement that system. So we do not want to listen to the minister over there about how he thinks it is going to work. We want him to listen to us in terms of how the board is in fact imposing it and implementing it already. They are already taking this section and imposing it on people and this is how they are interpreting the minister's legislation. This is how they are foisting it on to injured workers.

As I have described, this woman is unable to return to her former employment. She has been assessed for a 15 per cent pension. She applied for rehabilitation. She has not yet been accepted into rehabilitation, but they have assessed her in terms of her earning capacity, even in view of her injuries. She was earning \$19,000 a year working in the textile and clothing industry. The Workers' Compensation Board, having taken into account her permanent disabilities, assessed her ability to go out and find another job at \$21,000 a year. The board has said this woman is not eligible for any future-loss-of-earnings benefits—zero.

She has no job. She has been out looking for a job. The rehabilitation counsellor who has talked to her—although she has not been accepted into rehabilitation yet and she is receiving no rehabilitation supplement—has told her, "Well, our assessment of \$21,000 was basically based on our belief that you could work in retail sales." I am talking about a woman who is about four feet, 11 inches tall, with serious language difficulties and back, shoulder and neck disabilities. They want her to take a job in retail sales where she is on her feet all day in a store, when she would have language difficulties with the customers, when nobody is likely going to hire her, but this is the way the Workers' Compensation Board assesses a problem like this.

Why? It is partly because they are understaffed and the assessment is all a paper assessment. Nobody has ever sat down and realistically gone over the possibilities with this woman, because if they had, they would have very easily and clearly concluded that retail sales was out of the question. But that is the way in which this system

is operating, and because they determined she is capable of making \$21,000 a year, she gets no future-loss-of-earnings benefit at all.

1720

She has her pension. Under this system, though, the pension would not be as much as the pension she now receives. Fortunately, she has already got hers. It will not get reduced by the new legislation, but her equal in the next round will not even get as much as she got on the meat chart assessment for noneconomic loss and is going to get no loss-of-earnings consideration at all.

I would like to tell members about another case I have, because this one sort of deals with all three aspects of this piece of legislation. This is a gentleman named Alf Rogers. Alf was injured in 1972. I first got involved in Alf's case in 1976, part of a year before I was even elected, and I have been handling Alf's case ever since. Alf Rogers has been totally disabled ever since his accident in 1972. Alf Rogers receives from the Workers' Compensation Board a 20 per cent pension. That is it, 20 per cent.

Alf has, for very short periods, actually worked since 1972. I think we have to start to understand that in the context of what totally disabled is and how the Workers' Compensation Board assesses when somebody is totally disabled and when he is capable of doing some work. The reason Alf attempted to work for very short periods during that time was because the compensation board said he was not totally disabled and had to pursue work in order to get benefits. On every occasion he attempted to work he made his problems worse than they were before he attempted that work, but that is another question.

Those kinds of things have been described ad nauseam in some of the task force reports that have been done, including the one to which we have all been referring, the Majesky-Minna report. We have gone to appeal after appeal on Alf's behalf. Finally, in 1984, after his fifth assessment at the Downsview rehabilitation hospital, the doctor in charge of his assessment at that point for the first time—this is, I emphasize, 12 years after Alf Rogers's accident—has said in his discharge report that Alf Rogers is totally disabled. Unfortunately, he went on to say, "It is my view that all of his disabilities did not result from the accident in 1972," so Alf is still on a 20 per cent pension. We presently have an appeal pending before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal.

I raise this issue to deal with this question of whether or not the noneconomic-loss provision under this legislation should be appealable. The minister says it should not be appealable because it is just an assessment of medical fact. Bull. I take appeals of medical fact before the board and before WCAT on a regular basis and win, overturning the board's medical judgement, because the Workers' Compensation Board is making paper medical assessments of injured workers. It is not going to be any different under this economic-loss provision. This new legislation is not going to help an Alf Rogers.

Now, Alf's doctors, including the family doctor, the specialists he has been to—and they are numerous because for a long time they could not determine the total extent of his physical disabilities—and the doctor he has been working with at the rehabilitation hospital at Chedoke in Hamilton, all of those doctors conclude that all of Alf's disability, his physical disability and his accompanying psychological disability, are a result of the accident.

But as long as we have a Workers' Compensation Board that says, "No, no, we'll take credit for the physical only in this case, because we believe that Alf Rogers was a weak personality who had underlying psychological problems that were his and his alone and not a result of the accident." Alf could work before the accident, and did for 30 years. He was not a bum; he was not a lazy man who stayed home and tried to milk the system. For 30 years Alf worked. He has been unable to return to work since his accident in 1972, though. But we have a system that says, "We don't want to accept responsibility for a major portion of Alf's problem."

Now, I want to put this in a slightly different way so perhaps people can understand a little more clearly what happens in cases like this, because sometimes people have difficulty finding how the psychological and the physical mix or do not mix.

Let us just take two separate physical injuries to an individual, one of which happened some time ago, which was not compensable. It was an accident that this person had all on his own. Perhaps it was a back injury, perhaps a leg injury or perhaps a neck injury, but there was an injury. Maybe it was an auto accident, maybe it was a mountain-climbing accident or a water-skiing accident. I do not know; it does not matter. But we have an individual who had a pre-existing physical injury. That individual went through a recovery and returned to work. He or she was still able to work. Then we have the subsequent

work-related injury, the injury that is compensable. It is also a serious injury, different in nature from the pre-existing injury, but serious none the less.

As a result of the combination of the two injuries, this injured worker is now totally disabled and cannot return to work. He could return to work after his first injury; he managed to do his job and continue to have an income. But this injured worker is now totally disabled because of the combination of the two injuries.

What does the Workers' Compensation Board say in a case like this? I will tell members what they say. They say: "Well, that's fine. Yes, we agree that, in realistic terms, this individual is totally disabled. But it ain't all our responsibility at the Workers' Compensation Board. Therefore, not only do we have to assume that he is only 30 per cent disabled, not totally disabled; we have to assume that he is able to return to work."

So what happens with this, again, totally disabled individual? Because the board has to assume—because it takes responsibility for only part of his injuries—that he can return to work, then under the future loss-of-earnings provisions, it is going to have to assess what it is he is going to be capable of earning and determine whether he is going to get anything under this provision or not, even though he is totally disabled: flat on his back and cannot move.

At some point I would like somebody on the government side to explain to me how these changes that we have made here are going to alter and improve the situation for that totally disabled injured worker. The payment he gets for noneconomic loss is going to be smaller than the one he now gets.

1730

He is still going to be assessed, based on the meat chart, on the portion that the Workers' Compensation Board takes responsibility for, not on the fact that the compensable injury added to his old condition has made him totally disabled. They do not take account of that at all. They are going to assess their responsibility for the portion of the injury that happened at work and nothing more.

They are going to give him a lump sum. They are going to assume he is capable of working, they are going to send him out on a job search for some mythical job that he cannot do because he is totally disabled, they are going to assign a number of dollars to that mythical job that he cannot do and decide he is going to get perhaps zero in terms of loss of earnings, or perhaps somewhere between zero and some number that

will make up the difference between what he earned before his accident and whatever mythical job they assess him for, and he is going to spend the rest of his life trying to survive on that.

Can anybody on that side of the House tell me how this system deals with that huge economic problem that injured worker has? It does not deal with it at all. He is in exactly the same position he has always been in, and maybe even worse.

We have heard a number of people over the years comment—and statistics do not lie. Facts are facts, but statistics get used in strange ways from time to time—we have heard them say over and over, my colleague the member for Algoma mentioned it earlier, that at the Workers' Compensation Board 90 per cent of the claims get handled without any problem and only 10 per cent of the claims that go before the board have a problem. That is a true fact, it is a reality, but I think if we want to understand the reality, we have to look just behind that reality and look at the 10 per cent that are problems.

What we find when we look at that is that not only do we have 10 per cent of the total number of claims being, in human terms, 40,000 people a year, 40,000 individuals in this province who have problems with their compensation claim, but we have to take it one step further. What kind of claims are they that become the problems?

What we find when we look at it is that somewhere between 75 and 80 per cent of those workers' compensation claims where the injury is severe, resulting in significant permanent disability, are the ones that make up the 10 per cent.

The ones where the guy breaks his wrist, goes to his doctor, gets his cast on and perhaps can even return to his job and work during his disability, those are the ones that are not the problem. The people who break their legs, people who break toes, people who smash fingers, people who hurt their backs but fortunately recover because it was just a muscle strain or whatever, those are the people who make up the 90 per cent who do not have a problem, but the 10 per cent who have the problems are the serious injuries, the ones we should be helping the most, the serious injuries resulting in significant permanent disability, the ones we like to talk about that need rehabilitation. That is interesting, is it not?

I would like to tell members a little story about those injured workers with serious injuries resulting in significant permanent disability, the ones who end up in rehabilitation. We are talking about a piece of legislation here that is supposed

to be putting the emphasis on rehabilitation. I want to tell members a little about the rehabilitation system which this piece of legislation is asking us to put our faith in.

I do not know if this is happening all over the province, but in the Hamilton compensation office they are doing a series of retraining programs; what they claim to be attempting to accomplish is moving people around through the system so that eventually everybody down there, except for perhaps the clerical staff, understands the whole system so that a claims adjudicator will understand what it means when he or she refers somebody to rehabilitation and vice versa.

They took a bunch of the claims adjudicators and moved them into the rehabilitation section and they are now working as rehabilitation counsellors. Again I cannot use any names, for obvious reasons, because they are employees of the Workers' Compensation Board. A very short time after those moves occurred, we started to get calls from some of these new rehabilitation counsellors who were being trained. These are claims adjudicators who had been moved in to be trained as rehabilitation counsellors, and they started calling us and telling us: "These guys in the rehab section do not know anything. They don't even know the legislation. These guys are flying by the seat of their pants. They're winging it."

This is the rehabilitation section that this government is trying to tell us is going to be the emphasis, that this government is trying to tell us we have to have faith in, in terms of early intervention—rehabilitation counsellors who do not even know the legislation and what it is they are supposed to be providing to injured workers. Like I say, these are employees from inside the board. These are not just the comments of injured workers who do not think they got good service—and there are hundreds of thousands of them; hundreds of thousands of them.

Let us talk a little more about rehabilitation. Rehabilitation, in members' minds, I am sure, and certainly in my mind, is supposed to be a system that assists people to be rehabilitated based on whatever the physical requirements of their injury have limited them to. The vast majority of the rehabilitation counsellors will not even suggest to an injured worker what they think that injured worker should look for in the way of employment. They say: "I am not going to tell you what you should do. You tell me what you want to do." That is rehabilitation counselling. Some injured workers, in fact, come up with a list and then get told, "You can't do that one

because we don't cover that course, and no, you can't do that one because there are no jobs in it after you have finished the course."

Then the injured worker says: "Okay, I've had my shot at telling you what I want to do. Now tell me what I can do. Tell me what you're prepared to rehabilitate me for." They say: "That is not up to us. Why don't you just go out and look for a job? As long as you are doing a job search, we can give you a rehabilitation supplement, as long as you are turning in the sheets."

What does this piece of legislation do, with those totally inadequate rehabilitation facilities that injured workers are confronted with? What does this piece of legislation do? It even takes away their right, on an ongoing basis, for injured workers who cannot find work, to get a supplement while they are out looking for work. They are given 12 months and then they are thrown away.

We have a rehabilitation system presently which is not a rehabilitation system at all. There are no obligations to provide rehabilitation, and only in the most exceptional cases which get fought through appeals do workers seriously get rehabilitated by the vocational rehabilitation section of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The government is handing them here a system which not only leaves the major loopholes in place, no statutory obligations, but it decides where rehabilitation is appropriate. The compensation board is the one that knows best how to rehabilitate injured workers. We will still leave it up to them, and they put limits and caps on the benefits that injured workers can get in that almost nonexistent rehabilitation system.

1740

This is a joke. If government members really believe it is going to work, then they just do not understand what is going on out there at all. They should take the time to sit down and just at random pick 10 injured workers who are presently active with rehab and see what percentage of the 10 is actually being rehabilitated. I do not know what the number will be, but I would guess it would be somewhere between one per cent and 1.3 per cent. I think that is probably a fairly accurate guess. As I said, I have not done a study because I do not see all the cases from across the province, but that would be my experience in terms of the hundreds and hundreds of cases I have handled over the years.

This is the rehab system the government is telling us is going to be the emphasis for the future, and yet it is not putting any new, major directions in this legislation nor any new, major

rights for injured workers to rehab. We have a system that is not rehabilitation-oriented at all, and if we do not direct it to do that, it is not going to do it.

Reinstatement: We have heard a lot of talk about the tough, new reinstatement section in this piece of legislation. We have heard why you have to exempt the construction sector and we have heard why you have to exempt all the businesses that employ less than 20 employees. Then the government even throws in this catch-all clause that allows it, in the future, to exempt any other class or subclass of job from the reinstatement provisions.

Now, this is the one area of the bill that says to me the government does not know what is going on; either that or it does not care. I prefer to think that it really does not know rather than that it does not care, because then maybe if we can convince the government of what is going on, it will start to care and change the bill.

What we have is a whole lot of employers across this province. There are thousands of them. There are some good employers out there and some bad employers. There are some employers in Ontario who go out of their way, do headstands and backsprings, to reinstate injured workers when they have recovered to a stage where they can return to work, who go out of their way to find modified work for the injured worker when he cannot return to the job he did before he was injured, and who go out of their way, in some cases, even to create new jobs that did not exist before by taking bits and pieces of jobs that the worker can handle. I have seen employers like that. I have worked with them on some of my compensation cases. Yes, there are some good employers out there.

The Majesky-Minna report and the others who have said we have to have mandatory reinstatement have not said it because of those good employers. They ain't a problem and they are not going to be affected by this section one way or the other, because they are already doing it. The demand for mandatory reinstatement was for those employers out there who want to get rid of injured workers just as quickly as they possibly can because they do not want what they believe is going to be an albatross around their neck for the future. Although there are some good employers in this province, there is also a fairly significant number of employers whose only objective, once any worker has had a serious injury, is to get rid of that injured worker as quickly as they can.

I want the government to think about the provisions it has put in this bill for reinstatement

in the context of what I have just said, the kind of employers we are trying to deal with. Right off the top, the government has said: "Reinstate the employee. You have to keep him for six months; six months and one day and you can let him go. You will have fulfilled your obligation under the reinstatement." That clause alone totally negates the claim on the part of this government that there is a mandatory reinstatement provision in the act.

Aside from the exemptions my colleagues have talked about, we are trying to deal with those employers who in the past have not wanted to reinstate an injured worker because they do not want that albatross around their neck. They believe that injured worker is going to be unproductive and therefore a drag on their business. That is what is going on out there. The minister should understand what the game is.

The minister sticks in a clause that says: "Okay, your obligation is to take him back. Keep him for six months. If it does not work out, you've fulfilled your obligation." I am telling the minister exactly what is going to happen. In the vast majority of cases we need the reinstatement clause to handle, if they do not already fall into one of the other exemptions, they are going to go back to work for six months and then they are gone. That is what the minister has provided as a guarantee for the injured workers of Ontario.

Members should think about it and not just sit down and read the words and listen to the minister's rhetoric. "We've provided mandatory reinstatement." It is bull. It does not exist in this bill because he has not even thought about the problem he is trying to address. The same is true with the rehab sections of this bill. He has not thought about the problem we are trying to address. We are trying to address the problem that the Workers' Compensation Board is not providing serious rehabilitation in Ontario.

Where in this legislation has he set out what his vision of rehabilitation is, what rehabilitation means, what it is that workers have a right to be rehabilitated for? Do any members really know how the rehab section currently works? Even when an injured worker is suffering from a very severe injury, hampered by language problems and any of the number of things we have described for members in the debate—his age, whatever it happens to be—where it is absolutely clear the injured worker is not going to find a job, the rehab section says: "Well, go out and do a job search for a year. If you still can't find a job, we'll maybe consider retraining."

Is that the kind of sensitive vocational rehabilitation system we would understand from

the term, the words on a page? No. You would think that a sensitive, caring, understanding and progressive vocational rehabilitation section would look at the worker's medical records, have the worker in for an interview and say: "Jesus, there's no way this guy is going to find a job. He's got serious back injuries, one knee problem, and he can't speak English very well at all. He's got no skills training because he came out of construction as a labourer. What's this guy going to do with a bad knee, bad back and language difficulties?"

He is going to do job searches. That is all he is going to do. That is going to be his employment for the rest of his life, the way the vocational rehabilitation section of the Workers' Compensation Board operates. They send him out to do a job search for a year, hoping that he will go away or hoping that his brother-in-law gives him a job looking after his kids or something.

They do not seriously take his needs into account. They do not counsel him. Unless they end up with an MPP on the phone or an appeal, they do not send him for language upgrading and they do not send him for any skills training. Sure, there are lots of people who end up getting that, if they fight for it, but a vocational rehabilitation section should be assessing people at the outset and starting that process without a fight, without putting the worker through the economic disadvantage of the 6, 8 or 10 months of the appeal process, when he does not have any supplement at all.

That is the rehabilitation section at the Workers' Compensation Board, though, that members opposite are saying is the cornerstone of fixing the system.

It will be a joke until they are prepared to sit down, as a government, and understand what it is they want vocational rehabilitation to be and spell that out in clear terms. As long as the approach they take is to say rehabilitation is at the discretion of the Workers' Compensation Board and rehabilitation will be provided when the Workers' Compensation Board feels it is appropriate—what is appropriate to a system that does that to an injured worker, takes an injured worker who clearly and obviously is not going to find a job and sends him out to do a job search? What is appropriate about that? There is nothing appropriate about that. The government knows that.

1750

I guess what I am trying to say in the comments that I am making today is that the reason these amendments will not work and they do not do

what the government believes they are going to do is that they have not gone out and assessed what it is they have to address. They have not realistically looked at what is really going on out there for injured workers. I go back to one of the other cases that I was describing earlier, Alf Rogers. As I said when I left off talking about his case before, Mr. Rogers is still in receipt of a 20 per cent disability pension, even though the board now admits that he is totally disabled and has disavowed itself of 80 per cent of his disability.

All of his doctors—his three back specialists, his family doctor and the doctor in the rehabilitation centre at Chedoke Hospital—say without any equivocation that all of Mr. Rogers's disabilities are as a result of his 1972 accident. But the Workers' Compensation Board, after a paper assessment of Mr. Rogers's medical and psychological conditions, says that only 20 per cent of it is the responsibility of the Workers' Compensation Board.

Yet this government can put out a piece of legislation that says Mr. Rogers does not have the right to appeal that. It puts right in a piece of legislation that it is when all of the individual doctors who are treating the patient say he is totally disabled. The Workers' Compensation Board doctors, after doing a paper assessment of his medical and psychological conditions, say he is only 20 per cent disabled as a result of the work injury and, therefore, award his noneconomic-loss provisions. Mr. Rogers cannot appeal that to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal.

Why is it that this government has been hoodwinked by the WCB into believing that the WCB never makes an error in medical judgement when assessing the extent of an injured worker's injuries? Why is it that this government somehow has been led to believe that there is no need to appeal because it is a medical assessment and that the Workers' Compensation Board is never wrong in judging the medical extent of an injured worker's injuries?

Why is it that there is no appeal in this case when so clearly there are going to be thousands and thousands of injured workers who have been inappropriately assessed for noneconomic loss under this piece of legislation, who are denied the right to appeal and who also may get shafted by the sections that deal with future loss of earnings?

We have been through that, but I will just provide the members with the last specific example that flows out of this case. That is Mr. Rogers again. Mr. Rogers is like the mythical gentleman I described before who had two

physical injuries, one noncompensable, the other compensable. In this case, Mr. Rogers has two components to his disability. He is totally disabled. The one component of his disability is physical. It has been rated at 20 per cent by the board. The other component of his disability is psychological. But Mr. Rogers, even in the view of the board doctors now, is totally disabled. He is unemployable. Yet the board says all it is going to take credit for is the 20 per cent.

What is the board going to do in Alf's case? We know what it is going to do in terms of the noneconomic loss. It is going to say he is going to be rated basically the way he is rated now, except that it will be a smaller amount. Then they are going to try to assess Alf Rogers again for what it is that Alf Rogers is capable of earning.

Already the board doctors have said that Alf Rogers is totally disabled; he cannot work. How is it, now that you have reduced his physical pension under the noneconomic-loss section, Alf is going to get even less than he is getting now? He will not, because his pension is permanent, but somebody else in Alf Rogers's situation would get a smaller noneconomic-loss award than Alf now gets as a permanent disability pension, but he is totally disabled. He cannot work.

How is it that the board is going to assess what it is Mr. Rogers is capable of earning when he cannot work? It is impossible. The task cannot be done.

How is it that the board is then going to determine what Mr. Rogers should get in terms of loss of earnings? Are they going to give him dollar for dollar what he would have earned at the job he had prior to his accidents and give him an increase every time his union negotiates an increase?

There is nothing in the legislation that spells that out, because this government does not understand the kinds of situations that have to be accommodated out there. They do not understand the kind of complicated disability situations that these sections are supposed to be designed to address and do not address at all.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure which clock is right. Maybe I should just continue until you decide to see the clock.

That is the situation we have. We have sections here which mean they have not sat down and carefully looked at the problem it is they are trying to solve before they draft the section.

They have taken the heading out of a brief somewhere that says we have to address the question of economic loss. Somebody sat down

and said "Okay, I am going to draft a section that deals with economic loss," but they have not taken the time to look at the specific kinds of cases that have been covered by that.

We have no provisions here to protect umpteen different kinds of situations that we have all seen at one time or another, and if we sat down and thought about it, we would fully understand that we have to deal with them if we are really going to make the Workers' Compensation Act better than it presently is.

I go back to a comment I made a little earlier when I said that, of the 10 per cent of the claims that go to the Workers' Compensation Board that become a problem, they represent 75 to 80 per cent of those injured workers who have received a serious injury that results in significantly disabling permanent disability.

Until this government understands that the compensation board, yes, is capable of dealing with the simple, straightforward, day-to-day claims that are of very short duration and very limited extent in terms of the physical and psychological and emotional damage that is done to an individual; until the Workers' Compensation Board understands and this government understands that the WCB is not able to deal with the difficult cases, it is a compensation system that is not capable of dealing with the serious injuries in a sensitive, helpful and useful way; until this government understands that the 10 per cent of the cases that are problems are the serious cases and that the compensation board is not doing a good job of addressing those serious problems, the kinds of amendments that are set out in this legislation will not and cannot address or reform a system that does not work.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the member. I do not know if he has further remarks; if he has, he may wish to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Charlton, the debate was adjourned.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, His Honour the Administrator has been pleased to assent to a certain bill in his chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following is the title of the bill to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 180, An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
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 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
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 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
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 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
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 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
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 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
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 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, November 3, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, November 3, 1988

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

Mrs. O'Neill moved resolution 44:

That, in the opinion of this House, the issue of the location for the new national space agency has become unnecessarily divisive between provinces; that such initiatives should be founded on existing strengths, recognizing that the aerospace industry in Canada is predominantly shared between Ontario and Quebec and the administrative functions based in Ottawa/Hull; that therefore, the logical location for the space agency is in the national capital region; and that the government of Canada should announce forthwith its intention to establish the agency in the capital region.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has up to 20 minutes to make her presentation and may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Mrs. O'Neill: It is an honour to introduce a resolution of such importance this morning. The question of where the federal government is to locate its new national space agency is one that deserves the attention of all members of this Legislature.

What is at stake in this discussion is whether we, as Canadians, will continue to build upon our excellence in the many areas of science and technology in which we presently play a leading role. One of these areas is in the field of space science and technology, an area where Canada has been a leader for the past two and a half decades.

I know that all members in this House were pleased with the announcement made by the federal government in the 1986 speech from the throne that it would be establishing a Canadian space agency. I congratulate the federal government for making that commitment. Our future as a trading nation will be determined, at least in part, by the manner in which we meet the technological challenges posed in this and the next century by other countries. Initiatives like a national space agency will consolidate the type of

expertise that will develop and enhance much of Canada's high-technology industry.

The strategy of building upon our excellence is one that has been followed in this province and by our government. Through its initiatives such as the Premier's Council and the establishment of centres of excellence, we have built upon our strengths to ensure that Ontario will continue to have a leading competitive edge. The decision to establish a space agency was, of course, only a first step. To proceed further will require a number of subsequent but equally important decisions. A central decision is the location of the new agency.

The motion that I am introducing here today specifically addresses this decision, which I think is long overdue. I am asking the Ontario Legislature to strongly urge the government of Canada to continue its commitment to build upon our excellence in science and technology by making its decision on the basis of which area of the country offers the type of existing infrastructure and resources to best support an institution of this type.

I call on the members of the Legislature to urge the federal government not to treat the issue of location as a political reward. Instead, the federal government must recognize that our space agency should be logically located in the national capital region of our country, an area that offers the type of existing industry, technological resources, administrative and research facilities and overall infrastructure needed to support a national space agency, and, more than that, is the present home and place of work of many of the aerospace experts in our country.

I speak about these important aspects of the national capital region with a great deal of pride. As a member from that area, I know at first hand the important resources that are available to the further development of a national space program within the national capital area.

The issue of the location of the space agency is not a new question. It has been the focus of much activity by our provincial government since the federal announcement was first made in 1986. An endorsement of this resolution is but another step in assisting the government of Ontario in its continued efforts to lobby the federal govern-

ment—indeed, now each of the federal candidates—for locating the new space agency in the national capital region.

Soon after the announcement of a proposed space agency was made by the federal government in October 1986, the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), sent his deputy minister to meet with federal representatives on the issue and press the case for the national capital location. This effort was followed in February 1987 by a formal letter from the member for Quinte to the Honourable Frank Oberle, the Minister of State (Science and Technology), stating how critical this issue was for the Ontario government. Later that February, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) wrote the Prime Minister directly, firmly stating Ontario's preference for the national capital location.

The government of Ontario continued to make its position clear. In March 1987, the Premier spoke forcefully about the space agency in his annual speech to the Trillium dinner in Ottawa. By locating the space agency in the national capital region, the Premier said the federal government would provide a "shining example of interprovincial co-operation and national leadership at the very same time."

The member for Quinte echoed these sentiments in his keynote address to the Space Business Conference which was held here in Toronto in June 1987. Since then, this government has been continuing its lobbying efforts. I know that in addition to his letters, the Premier has spoken personally with the Prime Minister on a number of occasions on this matter, continuing to make his case for the national capital choice.

It is important for members to remember that Ontario's position has also been supported by much of Canada's aerospace industry. Over the last two years, representatives of this industry and the more broadly based economic and academic communities have corresponded, submitted briefs and met with the Premier and the two ministers of Industry, Trade and Technology—the member for Quinte and the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Kwinter)—to extend their support for our efforts.

We have encouraged these industries to continue to work with us in our efforts to try to persuade the federal government to locate the agency in the national capital region.

Our present Minister of Industry, Trade, and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) has continued the efforts of the member for Quinte. He has met on numerous occasions with industry representa-

tives and has lobbied privately as well as publicly, through speeches in the press, for a decision favouring the national capital. In addition, I know that Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology officials have continued to meet with their federal counterparts to discuss this matter.

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I am sure many members are aware of the open letter recently written by our Premier to the Prime Minister on this subject, outlining the many reasons the national capital is the ideal location for the space agency. Most important, the Premier stated that if the space agency is located in the national capital region, Ontario would be prepared to participate financially with the government of Quebec in creating a world-class institution.

I applaud the efforts of the Premier and the entire government of Ontario. They have been involved in this effort since the very beginning. I know I am joined in my congratulations by all members from the Ottawa-Carleton area.

In addition, the Ottawa-Carleton Liberal caucus has undertaken its own lobbying efforts to have the national space agency located in our region. Individually, members have written to the Prime Minister and to federal cabinet ministers involved in the decision. This fall, we as a caucus wrote the Prime Minister outlining the many advantages of locating the centre in the national capital region and requested a meeting to discuss the matter further. To date, we have merely received a letter of acknowledgement.

Before examining in greater detail the many advantages that the national capital region offers, I would like to spend a few moments this morning discussing the importance of space technology and science and the important role they have played in our country's development. It is perhaps best to begin 25 years ago, when Canada officially joined that exclusive group of countries contributing to the development of the world space program. Through the designing, building, testing and launching of the artificial satellite Alouette I, Canada began what would become a significant contribution to the development of space science and technology.

Some of us are old enough to remember the pride that was engendered in each by that very first undertaking. Those original scientists, researchers and industries have become the core of what has developed into an important segment of Canada's high-tech industry. Since then, Canadians have contributed greatly to the field of space science and research through their work in

government, private laboratories and universities, with the core of the work, I add, being done in laboratories and space program offices situated in the national capital region.

As manager of the government's space programs, the agency would co-ordinate and centralize the space-related activities of various federal departments and agencies, including the departments of Communications, External Affairs and National Defence, the National Research Council and Telesat Canada, all of which are presently located in the national capital region.

Space technology and science is imperatively global. Hence, the space agency will be working closely with other nations, exchanging information and co-operating in space initiatives and introducing and participating in very necessary international negotiations that surround the global space program. This co-operation would be greatly enhanced and facilitated within the national capital, which, as we all know, is home to the world's embassies and their diplomatic representatives in Canada.

I would also like to reiterate that almost all of the government personnel with expertise and experience in the area of space science and technology live in the national capital region. It has been estimated that 80 per cent of the necessary and very specialized human resources needed for the space agency are already located there.

The region also boasts many of the related government-sponsored, high-tech space laboratories and test facilities needed to support the activities of the agency. These include the David Florida Laboratory housed at the Communications Research Centre, which presently serves as the existing national space test facility, and the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing.

The national capital region offers much more than its important proximity to government. It possesses an outstanding industrial and academic infrastructure. These factors have combined to make the national capital region an already established centre of high technology, recognized throughout North America and, indeed, the world.

The national capital region currently has 15 companies employing 2,000 people in various aspects of space technology and its applications. These include a number of leading Canadian companies that the government of Ontario has been able to assist through technology fund grants, such as Canadian Astronautics Ltd., a world leader in satellite-based radar design.

Academically, the region boasts three leading post-secondary institutions—two universities, the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, and Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology—all of which are involved in high-tech research and study. Each brings a high level of expertise in a number of fields important to space science and technology.

The University of Ottawa is an international leader in satellite and digital communication research. Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology offers a variety of specialized programs in the area of high technology, training the technologists and technicians who assist in the development of research. The college is involved in the areas of microelectronics, manufacturing technologies, digital technologies, linear circuitry and design.

Carleton University boasts a first-class engineering faculty which includes an aeronautical engineering department. I was very pleased to learn that this year, 1988-89, Carleton is offering the first undergraduate degree in aerospace engineering in Canada. I know how pleased the Premier was recently to tour the engineering facility at Carleton, during which time he met with local representatives of the aerospace industry to discuss the space agency issue.

I would also like to add that I recently received a letter and a visit from the Carleton University Students' Association supporting the efforts of our government in lobbying the federal government to establish the space agency in the national capital region and offering its assistance.

Much of the work of these institutions has been brought together with that of government and industry through the Ottawa-Carleton Research Institute. Since its formation in 1983, this institute has become one of the largest nonprofit research co-operatives of its kind in Canada. The institute serves to pool the expertise that exists within the national capital region at the academic, industrial and government levels to undertake major research projects. The projects the institute has undertaken include work in the fields of microelectronics, communications and computer technology. The Ottawa-Carleton Research Institute is an important aspect of the existing infrastructure in the area and would obviously be greatly utilized by the new space agency.

May I remind the honourable members of the Ontario Legislature that I am reviewing the outstanding features of an area of this country which was chosen more than a century ago as our nation's capital, Canada's capital. Nations'

capitals have always traditionally been home to the world's space agencies. A nation's capital is best able to serve the national interest. The neutrality it brings to nations and its important role in steering the course of the nation have resulted in almost every industrialized nation in the world with space capacities locating its space agency in its capital.

As members are aware, one of the roles of the new space agency will be awarding government contracts in the space technology and science fields to companies located in a number of regions in this country. Placing the agency in an area that is home to most national agencies which award contracts seems more than appropriate. Canada's national capital region equally serves all regions of this country and is centrally located between the two provinces most involved in space science and technology, Ontario and Quebec.

The Premier has stated that our government has no objection to the space agency being established in the portion of the national capital region located in Quebec. Ontario in no way wants the discussion over the location of the space agency to turn into a regional or divisive battle.

It is also important to note that even if the decision is made not to locate the space agency in the national capital, the valuable human and research resources that exist in the federal capital would indeed need to be consulted and, in time, deeply involved in offering their experience and expertise, for they are the Canadian experts.

Of equal importance, many key institutions would be required either to relocate a portion of their operations elsewhere or to move entirely. Such a situation would create obvious inefficiencies and prohibitive costs. For example, it is estimated by the Ottawa-Carleton Economic Development Corp. that the cost of construction and relocation involved with establishing the agency elsewhere would cost \$100 million. Manpower relocation and recruitment costs have been estimated at \$5 million. Another point which must be taken into consideration is that a substantial amount of staff would decide not to relocate, choosing not to disrupt their lives, and thus depriving the new space agency of their talents, knowledge and expertise.

Presently, within the area of the national capital, new enterprises are being created with local investment and resources. In other words, the dream of a Silicon Valley North has become a reality, however new and fragile. If key industries and government agencies were removed to

support a new space agency outside of the national capital region, significant damage would be done to an economic base that has taken years to develop.

There is no overall gain and certainly no national advantage, and there is no advantage to the Canadian people as a whole, to be made from transferring well-established, successful industries and expertise from one region of the country to another. National achievement is much more easily and efficiently made, in my opinion, through building upon existing foundations.

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Through many efforts, including today's resolution, Ontario is attempting once again to encourage the Prime Minister of Canada and members of the federal government to establish this Canadian space agency in the location that offers the longest tradition, the most experience, the concentration of human resources, the laboratories of research—in other words, the most logical, unbiased and efficient location, the national capital region.

I hope that all members of this House will join me in supporting this important resolution.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Thank you. I am sure honourable members would like me to remind them of standing order 24(b): "When a member is speaking, no other member shall interrupt him, except on a question of order."

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to be able to address this issue as the Industry, Trade and Technology critic for the New Democratic Party. Certainly research and development is the key to Canada's future. We have been a nation that has been remiss in our level of spending and our level of investment in our future when it comes to research and development. In terms of western-world countries, we have one of the lowest percentages of gross national product investment into research and development as a nation, as federal and provincial governments and in terms of our major private corporations.

The objective of a national space agency is a very valid one. It is an area that holds tremendous promise for the future in terms of new developments and spinoffs into all areas that affect our society and the economic development of our country for years to come. It is a vitally important one to Canada, as it is to other nations of the world, one that we must have a significant share in.

When it comes to a decision such as this on the location of the national space agency, it is so unfortunate that it becomes tied up in an election

campaign as a political issue of regional conflict between various areas of the country. I think it is quite unfortunate when political parties use an agency such as this as a tool for pure political gain in one region of a country versus another, and that certainly applies to the position that both the Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, and the leader of the Liberal Party, John Turner, have taken in terms of their commitment to locate this facility in the Montreal area.

At this time I do not want to take a specific view with regard to this amendment that it should definitely be in the Ottawa-Carleton area. In my view, what is needed are valid, objective criteria for these kinds of decisions, criteria that are laid out in advance and in which a clear, fair evaluation is done of all the potential areas within our country for the location of such an agency. This should be done outside of political campaigns, and I think it is unfortunate that we have here a resolution from the provincial Liberal members that again is trying to make it part of the current federal campaign.

This is exactly the same as what happened on the CF-18 fighter contracts. On that kind of proposal there were criteria laid out, and the various potential competitors for that major contract in the maintenance of the CF-18 were evaluated. In that case, Winnipeg-Bristol Aerospace—was the winner on valid, objective criteria, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, used his political sway and the sway of his own Conservative members to change that decision and to put that maintenance contract into the city of Montreal. I think it is so unfortunate when that type of action happens.

I believe there are many positive things about the Ottawa-Carleton area, certainly in terms of its research capability, in terms of the types of agencies that are there today and in terms of the current level of private research and development in the Ottawa-Carleton area. I myself had the opportunity to be able to work in the Ottawa-Carleton area for a year and a half, earlier in my working days, for the largest research and development corporation in Canada, Bell-Northern Research Ltd. I know the kinds of talents and the kinds of abilities that are in that area. I think Ottawa-Carleton would do very well in a fair and open competition.

I do not think we should just arbitrarily say that it should be the winner because we are here as representatives of the people of Ontario. I think we should be saying that we should have valid criteria, fair and equitable criteria laid out and that that decision should be made outside of the

political realm and outside of an election campaign, when it is used as a pork-barrel tool by both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, John Turner, as a way of buying votes in a city such as Montreal, which has about 30 races going on there, in comparison with Ottawa or in comparison with other communities in Ontario or elsewhere in Canada that, as well, may have valid arguments.

I would suggest that, as a provincial government, we should be looking at what we can do to improve the level of research and development in our province. This is an area in which I think this Liberal government has left us far behind. This government has not taken the initiative needed to make a significant improvement in the percentage of research and development spending in Ontario. It particularly has not done so in terms of the criteria it has laid out for research and development dispersion. It continues to put almost all funds into the areas that already have strong universities and strong research components.

One of the components of any evaluation of major government spending, particularly technological development, has to be what regions and what areas need the development and what industries require competitiveness to be at world scale and in the forefront of new developments in their particular industries. It is not just the areas of high technology. It is not just the areas of communications and computers that we have to invest in. We have very important fundamental industries in terms of our resource industries and in terms of basic manufacturing in Ontario which are keys to our economic success, which are major portions of our export product. We have to ensure that they maintain their competitiveness and are in the forefront of those areas.

This government has been extremely remiss in investing in those areas. The amount it has invested, primarily in the high-technology area, is small. Because the funds have been so small, they are unable to make a significant impact in those areas. The amount of investment that goes into high technology has to be enormous in comparison with what a more modest amount could do in basic industry. This province has not taken those steps and has not invested in areas of the province and in industries in this province that have been vital to our past and are vital currently in terms of our trade surpluses and will continue to be vital in the future.

Certainly, as the resolution has suggested and as the member for Ottawa-Rideau (Mrs. O'Neill) has said, there are very valid arguments for the

Ottawa-Carleton area to be chosen for this national space agency. The National Research Council is located in Ottawa. That is an important research institute of the federal government. That could be played on in terms of synergies with a national space agency.

Again, I would suggest that we should be more objective and more fair, take this out of the political realm and insist that this type of pork-barrel campaign does not become a part of this election campaign. It should not have been a part of it, and I think it is unfortunate that the member for Ottawa-Rideau is using this as a political tool to promote her own particular regional interest in the middle of a federal election campaign.

1030

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that members of the government party will heed your warning about the rule, whatever number it was, and not interrupt me.

This resolution is the height of hypocrisy. When a member of the provincial Liberal government brings forward a resolution in favour of the national space agency in Ottawa-Carleton two years after it was originally proposed by our federal government, we know how desperate they are to control the damage that has been caused to them by their lack of action in the past.

The Liberal and New Democratic candidates running in the federal election in Ottawa-Carleton are cringing today because both of their leaders have said during this election campaign that the space agency should be located in Montreal. I will quote Mr. Turner later.

In the early parts of this particular campaign, the Liberal candidates in Ottawa-Carleton were saying to the Conservative candidates in the federal election, "Why have you not got it here in Ottawa-Carleton?" Since Mr. Turner affirmed in the debate—

An hon. member: In the French one.

Mr. Sterling: —in the French debate, not the English debate but only in the French debate the other night, that he favours the national space agency in Montreal, the members of the Liberal team in Ottawa-Carleton have started to remain silent.

I want to go over the history of this, because the inaction of this government is shameful.

In October 1986, the federal throne speech announced that a federal space agency would be established. Immediately the province of Quebec sent delegations down to Ottawa to lobby the federal government for the location of the space

agency in Quebec and, more particularly, in Montreal.

On January 12, 1987, a committee from the Ottawa business community high technology centre which included Dave Daubney, the member of Parliament for Ottawa West, Bill Tupper, the MP for Nepean-Carleton, and Barry Turner, the MP for Ottawa-Carleton, got together with the high technology community and tried to influence the government. They have successfully kept the government at bay from making a decision to go to Quebec, notwithstanding all of the lobbying that Quebec is doing, and very precious little is being done here.

Interestingly enough, one of the members of that group happens to be Gordon Gow, now the Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. One of the reasons the member for Ottawa-Rideau has brought this message to us is the fact that Gordon Gow—not an elected representative, somebody who was appointed in the last few months—has finally awakened this government to the fact that it had better get off its duff and start moving. A bureaucrat is moving this government towards making a statement on this, not in fact the politicians who represent the area.

On January 15, 1987, I stood in this Legislature and asked the Deputy Premier (Mr. R. F. Nixon) what, in fact, the Liberal government of Ontario had done to lobby the federal government to locate the space agency in Ottawa-Carleton. The answer, three months after the announcement was made, was that they had done nothing, absolutely nothing. Only after my urging did they start to react, and even that reaction was minor. Perhaps it is a reflection of the fact that they do not consider Ottawa-Carleton, even after a question is asked in this Legislature, an important area.

Later in 1987, I wrote to the Premier and asked him in fact what he had done and what his ministers had done to locate the space agency in Ottawa-Carleton.

His answer to me was on November 27, 1987, one full year after the space agency was announced. I was told by the Premier of this province that neither he, his minister nor his deputy minister had requested one meeting with Mr. Oberle, Minister of State (Science and Technology), or the Prime Minister of this country. Sure, they had written a couple of letters, standard letters that their staff had churned out, to the minister and to the Prime Minister.

Mrs. O'Neill: I'd like to see that letter.

Miss Nicholas: Send that letter over.

Mr. Sterling: They did not take one step until one year after that.

Miss Nicholas: Let's have a look at all that.

Mr. Sterling: I will produce and table this letter in the Legislature. This morning was the first time I ever heard of any meeting between an official of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and any member of the federal government. I am irate at the actions of this government in terms of what it has not done on behalf of the Ottawa-Carleton area. I think it is absolutely amazing that a Liberal member in the Ottawa-Carleton area has the nerve to bring this resolution here two years after they should have started acting.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: We have eight Liberal MPPs in the area and one Conservative. I happen to be the Conservative member in that area. I have done five times as much as the eight of them combined and I did it when it counted. I got this government at least off its duff to write a letter. That is what they think is action.

Miss Nicholas: Are you pointing at us?

Mr. Villeneuve: Are you the government or are you not?

Mr. Black: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay on a point of order.

Mr. Sterling: I hope this is not taking away from my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Black: Mr. Speaker, I bring to your attention and to the attention of this House that yesterday I was reprimanded by the Speaker for speaking out when I was not sitting in my normal seat. This morning we have the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) who continues to interject, something that he should not be doing; but to make it even worse, he is doing it from a seat other than his own. I would ask that he be asked to sit quietly so that we can hear the speaker.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: They do not want to hear. They think this is a joking matter, the Liberal members. I do not think it is a joking matter, because the location of the space agency in the Ottawa-Carleton area will mean thousands of jobs to that area. The Liberal leader of the federal

party, if he should ever be elected Prime Minister, is going to take thousands of jobs out of Ottawa-Carleton and transfer them to the city of Montreal.

John Turner, the Liberal leader, disagrees with so much of what the member for Ottawa-Rideau has said today. I will quote from *La Presse*, September 23, 1987: "Liberal leader John Turner favours Montreal as the site of the future Canadian space agency.... According to Mr. Turner, Montreal is the logical site" I say to the member for Ottawa-Rideau—"for the agency, an institution which Ottawa wishes to found in order to co-ordinate its programs in the high-tech-nology sector.

"Considering that the aeronautics industry is now centred in Toronto,"—not in Ottawa—"I believe that the space agency should be concentrated here in Montreal," the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday...."

I am also informed that Ed Broadbent has said during this election campaign that it should be located in the city of Montreal. I want to say to the people of Ottawa-Carleton, if you want an opportunity to have the space agency located in Ottawa-Carleton, you cannot vote for John Turner and you cannot vote for Ed Broadbent. Vote for candidates in Ottawa-Carleton. Vote for Bill Tupper in Nepean who supports and will convince his government that the space agency should go in Ottawa-Carleton. Vote for Barry Turner, Dave Daubney, Bob Plamondon, Paul Dick, Barry Moore, Claudy Mailly and Nicole Moreault.

I am going to hold my nose and vote for this resolution because I cannot vote against it.

1040

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to make the point that I am a little concerned that in private members' hours we have these irresponsible points of order raised, especially in the 10 minute time frame. It takes away from the private member's time. We are each allocated 10 minutes and when the speaker who has just spoken has so many important things to say, how—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker: I have not yet heard the point of order of the member for Wellington.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The point is quite simple: Do not allow irresponsible points of order.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Can we continue with the member for Ottawa South (Mr. McGuinty)?

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I had a point of order.

An hon. member: There was no point of order.

Mr. Sterling: I was denied approximately a minute with regard to what I wanted to say because the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black)—

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: Maybe he does not think it is important that there is a space agency in Ottawa-Carleton, but we think it is important. I would like to ask for an extra minute or so to wind up my remarks.

The Acting Speaker: I take that as a request for an additional minute. Is there unanimous consent to grant the member for Carleton—

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker: May we now—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Ottawa South, please.

Mr. McGuinty: I am surprised by the statement made by the honourable member for Carleton. Actually, the motion before us has to do with the location of the space agency, not with the scenario going back two or three years regarding the kind and degree of pressure that was exerted by this government. In fact, it seems strange to me that he would chastise my colleague the honourable member for Ottawa-Rideau for not having taken action two years ago in this House, when as far as I know she was not even in the House.

Members will recall a few years ago when the Americans were somewhat upset by the launching of Sputnik into space, Wernher von Braun was one of the great German scientists working at Cape Canaveral. Bob Hope's comment on that was simply: "Well, let's not get too upset. That simply means that the Russians' German scientists are better than our German scientists." I think that time has long gone by. In Canada, we have the Canadian talent to work effectively in this area.

This government has shown an interest in this program since 1986, and I have references to statements and pressures by the member for Quinte going back to that point. As the honourable member for Ottawa-Rideau has stated, more recently, in September of this year, the Premier

lamented the perception that the discussion of the space agency location appeared to have evolved into a political debate between Quebec and Ontario.

Mr. Sterling: You made it political in this Legislature?

Mr. McGuinty: The member for Carleton chastised his fellows across the floor when he began to speak for having—he reminds me of one time when John Barrymore was acting in a Broadway play, *Henry V* actually. One line in the play goes: "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse." Somebody, similar to my colleague from Carleton, brayed from the first row. John Barrymore did not lose a line. He simply said, "Enough, good man. Yon braying ass will do."

The Premier has stated that the real issue is how to ensure the space industry is competitive with the rest of the world. To this end, the location of the space agency would be most appropriate in the National Capital Region, be that location Ottawa or Hull, Ontario or Quebec. In that place, it would be a model for inter-governmental co-operation between Quebec and Ontario, the other provinces and the federal government, with individual strengths pooled to create a unique world-class institution.

As my colleague the member for Ottawa-Rideau has indicated, the practical reasons for the location of the space agency in the national capital region are compelling and convincing. They include, among other things, easy access to the government departments that have vested interests in this area: the Department of National Defence, the Department of Transport, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Communications and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

There would be easy political co-ordination with the federal government. All but one of the countries in space research and development have their space agencies in their nation's capital to enhance the national context of aerospace research and development. Major federal government labs are already located in Ottawa—the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, for example. There are space companies in the Ottawa region such as Canadian Aeronautics and Space, and Telesat. To facilitate the co-ordinating of space activities with foreign governments, the embassies are conveniently located in Ottawa.

The formulation and development of a national space policy would be more acceptable, and therefore credible, if it is carried out in the national capital region, be it Ottawa or Hull. The international perception resulting from a decision

to locate the space agency in Montreal would not be positive, as it would convey the message that Canada is more interested in regional factors than it is in the formulation of a national strategy for the use of space.

The National Aeronautical Establishment of the National Research Council has five labs and employs approximately 200 people, 50 of whom are professional engineers. The NRC also has a space division. There are other Ottawa-based companies that work in the field of aerospace propulsion. The Communications Research Centre is an important aerospace facility in Ottawa that does environmental testing of satellites primarily. Canadian Astronautics Ltd. is a large Ottawa-based company that is very much involved in aerospace research and development, especially in the fields of antennas, communications, radar and remote sensing. It has up to 400 employees with 60 professional engineers.

In addition, there are two major universities in Ottawa—Carleton—Carleton University and the University of Ottawa—both of which are eminently qualified to participate in and contribute to the work of the space agency. As my colleague has referred to, Carleton University has offered masters' and doctoral programs for 25 years and has recently initiated a program in aerospace engineering. The University of Ottawa is willing and able to make a constructive contribution to this great program.

For these reasons, as a national undertaking with a national significance in the international world, the situation of that space agency would be most appropriate in the national capital region. I ask for the members' support of this resolution.

1050

Mr. Wildman: I rise to participate in this debate. I regret very much that private members' hour is being used essentially for fighting the federal election in Ottawa-Carleton in the Ontario Legislature. To have the member who introduced the resolution get up and make a pitch, basically to try to influence the votes of the people in Ottawa-Carleton, and then to have the member for Carleton end his remarks by listing all the Tory candidates in the region and saying that people should vote for them—

Mr. Runciman: Good people.

Mr. Wildman: I am not suggesting they are not good people. For that matter, most of the people who live in Ottawa-Carleton are good people. But I am suggesting that this is not the place to be saying, "Vote for Such-and-such."

This is not the federal election campaign. I think it demeans private members' hour. It makes it a mockery. It just persuades everyone that what is going on in this place on Thursday mornings is really a waste of time and just a big joke.

The matter put before us, the national space agency, is an important question. Frankly, as a member who is interested in research and development, who is concerned about the general lack of research and development in this country as compared to other industrialized nations, and who is concerned about the future of our industrial development because of the inadequacy of research and development in Ontario and in Canada, I think this is an important matter.

I am concerned that the federal Conservative government, in its first few months of office, took it upon itself to substantially cut the funding for agencies such as the National Research Council of Canada, to denigrate the research efforts that were made by the federal government in the past, and to actually put in jeopardy the jobs of many important scientists who obviously were concerned about the future, and as a result, decided to leave.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I believe one of the members who is interjecting was objecting to other members interjecting earlier.

As I was saying, many scientists whose futures were not secure chose to choose positions outside of this country because of the cutbacks that were made by the Conservative government when it came to power.

This was not just true of the National Research Council. We saw similar attacks on the scientific community by the Conservative government even in the Department of the Environment, the Canadian Wildlife Service and so on. It was not just in research and development; it was in important research related to the protection of the environment in this country. So I do not think there has really been any concerted effort by the Conservatives at the federal level to encourage the scientific community.

As a matter of fact, the establishment of the space agency in itself was part of that attack on the National Research Council, because as we all know, Canada's efforts in space have been largely related to its significant contributions in the field of communications and satellite communications. Those efforts have been centred largely, though not completely, in the NRC. By the establishment of a space agency, the federal

Conservatives were attempting to hive off a very important part of the work of the NRC to some other agency and to use it, for whatever reasons, to try to curry favour with another region of the country.

I think it is unfortunate, though, that we have before us right now a resolution which basically says we should not be concerned about the objective criteria for determining where such an agency should be established, but that rather we should say, "It should go to this particular area as opposed to another one, whether or not that one area is better than the other."

We have seen the problems we have experienced in this country as a result of decisions such as the CF-18 contract, where in fact there was an independent criterion considered for determining where that contract should go. After that assessment was done, the decision was it should go to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Instead, for political reasons, the federal government decided to locate it in Montreal, Quebec. There is no question that in that case there was technical expertise in aeronautics in Quebec and in Montreal, but the fact was that an independent agency reviewed the proposals and decided that a particular contract should go to a company in Manitoba. That was overruled for political reasons. This resolution before us basically attempts to do the same thing.

As my colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) indicated, if this issue were left to an independent analysis of objective criteria, we think the Ottawa-Carleton region would do very well. I have mentioned the contributions of the National Research Council, the concentration of scientific expertise, particularly in the communications and satellite fields, in that area. My colleague mentioned Bell-Northern Research. We have seen the advances, although there have been some difficulties subsequently, in the Ottawa-Carleton area in the field of computer technology.

Frankly, we think that if we were to leave these issues, as has been suggested by my federal leader, to objective criteria analysis rather than political pork barrels, in this case Ottawa-Carleton would do very well. For that reason, I have some serious problems with the wording of this resolution.

It would be very difficult for any member of the House to vote against this resolution. I am gratified that the member has at least admitted that when she is talking about the national capital region, she is including Hull, Quebec. It is difficult to say no, to vote against this, because it

would be like saying these agencies should not be in Ottawa.

What we are saying is that if Ottawa were allowed to compete with Montreal or whatever other centre in this country on an equal footing, we think Ottawa would do very well. That is unfortunately not what is said in this resolution. The resolution does not say all communities should be considered objectively and it should be decided on the expertise available, on the companies, the agencies, the economic aspects that are available in the communities, and decided on that alone rather than on political preferences.

Mrs. O'Neill: No; you weren't listening.

Mr. Wildman: I did not hear, in any part of this debate, a suggestion that the presenter of the resolution would acquiesce in the establishment of a space agency in Montreal, Quebec, if an objective analysis decided Montreal was better than the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Mr. Black: You weren't listening.

Mr. Wildman: The member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay says I was not listening. After reading his report, I am wondering if he has been on something this morning.

Mr. McGuigan: You are imputing morals.

Mr. Wildman: I certainly would not impute good morals.

I hope the member will accept the view that these things should be decided on their merits rather than on the old Liberal-Tory approach of a political pork barrel. We have had enough of that in this country.

Mr. Jackson: Isn't that what Ed Broadbent said?

Mr. Wildman: Ed Broadbent has said in this campaign that these decisions should be made objectively, and that is true of appointments as well.

I will vote in favour of this resolution, not because I think it is a good one, but because to vote against it would be to say that we are against Ottawa-Carleton. Having grown up in that region, I can hardly vote that way.

1100

Mrs. O'Neill: The member for Sault Ste. Marie and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) were intimating that politicians are not elected to make decisions. Anyone who thinks that this decision is not going to be made politically has his head in the sand.

I am not trying to influence anybody's vote in particular or speak on behalf of any party other

than the constituents I represent. What I am doing this morning is appealing to every single federal candidate in this country to consider objectively the criteria that exist in the area that I represent.

I examined the criteria. I think I did it objectively. I gave at least 10 points for why our area was the area that had the infrastructure, that had the communication systems, that had the science laboratories, that had the human resources. All of these things have been substantiated and supported nationally and internationally by members of the aerospace industry itself and by scientists who have come to the area to study, and those things have been well documented and researched in many journals.

Our Premier has been very statesmanlike in his activity throughout this whole endeavour. He has been statesmanlike because he has suggested that we can work interprovincially on this matter. He has stated that very publicly. In fact, he has stated that we would participate financially interprovincially.

Then we have also the possibility of a much better federal-provincial triumvirate being created there in the national capital area. That is the way we want to go: Quebec, Ontario and the federal government.

This issue cannot be divisive; it should not be divisive; it should not be partisan. I totally agree with those statements. It should not be a decision based upon regional need.

We have the traditions. We have built the foundations—academic, scientific and economic. We have the experience in the area I represent. The people who have been involved in this industry for the last quarter of a century live within Ottawa-Hull. The research facilities have been developed. The economic background is there. The communication and technical structures are in existence.

I strongly request that the members of this Legislature consider my request this morning for support for a national space agency to be located in the national capital region of our country.

ZOO LICENSING ACT

Mr. Philip moved second reading of Bill 129, An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition or Entertainment.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and other members for your attention in the consideration of the case that I shall be presenting as I urge members to support Bill 129, An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition or Entertainment.

This bill is supported by zoologists, by animal behaviourists, by environmentalists, by humane societies across the province and, indeed, by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

It is supported by veterinarians across the province, and members will have received a letter of endorsement written by Dr. Donald McKeown, president of the Society of Ontario Veterinarians. It is also supported by tens of thousands of ordinary citizens in this province who have visited certain private zoos and other animal exhibits and who were appalled by the conditions the animals must live in and by the lack of safety precautions for visitors.

I was called out of the House just a couple of minutes ago to receive a call from Calvin White, the general director of the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo. He expressed the support of the zoologists and the people at the Metro Zoo for this bill and said that I should tell the government that he and his colleagues are willing to work with the government to implement, to devise, and to revise if necessary, any of the regulations under this bill. He said that the bill has his full and complete support.

I want to thank all of these people for their support. I want to thank those who took time to review and offer constructive advice and changes in the original draft bill which I sent to them. I think that those who have done so will find their concerns are reflected in this revised bill which we are debating today.

It is impossible to name the many citizens and the professional organizations that have spent hours working with me in drafting the bill. However, a few should be singled out. Barry Kent MacKay, a columnist for the Toronto Star and a naturalist, is a person who has always been a source of advice and support to me on this bill and on other concerns that I have brought to the floor of this House. Liz White and Holly Penfound have been of tremendous help in getting our arguments distributed and listened to by people across the province.

Our own legislative library research staff and the legislative draftspeople have, as always, performed in a professional way. Dr. Ron Orenstein, who is the gallery, is an internationally recognized zoologist and also a lawyer who has specialized in laws related to animal care. He has provided a tremendous amount of advice, both in terms of the content and in understanding the laws of other jurisdictions that might be of help to those of us in Ontario.

Most important, I want to thank Rob Laidlaw, the founder of Zoocheck Canada and the author of *Captive Animals in Ontario*. He best exemplifies what I think it is to be a solid citizen in a democratic country. Rob is an ordinary citizen who saw a serious problem that needed correction. He spent a considerable amount of his own money travelling to the various 11 zoos and other animal exhibits across the province.

He is not a radical by any sense of the imagination. He is an ordinary citizen who felt that he must speak up and point out a problem. When the bill or its facsimile becomes law, either today or tomorrow or at some point in time, as it by necessity will have to become law, it should be Rob Laidlaw who takes the bows and takes the credit and not myself.

This bill requires that a person, to acquire a licence to operate a garden, park or other establishment that keeps animals for the purpose of exhibition or entertainment, must first of all obtain a licence. The bill does not apply to circuses or pet shops. Applicants for a licence are required to submit a detailed plan documenting how they propose to care for the animals and ensuring that they have adequate financing to properly care for the animals.

The bill sets out standards for providing and caring for animals. The bill provides for the inspection of the premises of such establishments. A person who contravenes this would be subject to a fine or, indeed, the animals could be taken by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

There are, thus, two thrusts or objectives of this bill: One is safety for the public and the other is the humane treatment of the animals. They are perhaps best summarized by the endorsement of the Society of Ontario Veterinarians whose resolution reads as follows:

"The Society of Ontario Veterinarians is concerned about the inhumane conditions of captive animals in some privately owned zoos in Ontario, as well as lack of safety precautions for visitors, evident in these zoos.

"It is for these reasons the Society of Ontario Veterinarians is actively involved in the formulation of some legislation in Ontario to make the licensing of these zoos mandatory and thereby instituting clearly definable standards and regulations for zoo animal care and inspection."

The idea of the government requiring certain operators of various types of businesses to obtain a licence is not a new and radical idea. At present, there are roughly 50 acts in Ontario requiring some kind of licensing. Examples of these are the *Animals for Research Act*, the

Game and Fish Act, the *Dead Animal Disposal Act* and the *Amusement Devices Act* which provides some standards and some protection for public visiting fairs, exhibitions and so forth. The *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* gives some power to the Ontario humane societies to intervene where domestic animals are very obviously physically abused but it does not satisfy the objectives of this bill, which combines both public safety and animal protection.

1110

There are those who will advocate the abolition of all zoos. That is not the objective of this bill. There are those who believe that zoos, be they private or public or publicly owned, serve useful purposes. These people feel comfortable with this bill. They argue that well-run zoos can serve the purposes of education, preservation of endangered species and research of a non-intrusive kind into the wonders of animal behaviour. Without standards, most of the private zoos in this province do not yet serve these purposes. There are some that do meet these standards, I might add.

In this province, any person can open and operate a zoo without any proof that he or she knows anything about the animals he or she is exhibiting, without any regulation regarding food or housing of these animals, without any plan for adequate safety for the public visiting these places whatsoever and without any proof of financial capability to keep on caring for the animals. Without being overly dramatic, that is as insane as giving your seven-year-old son a rifle and telling him to go in the backyard and learn how to use it. It makes no sense whatsoever.

I only wish that each and every one of you here had read the report by Rob Laidlaw which documents the dangers and horrors found in some of the private zoos in Ontario. If you did, I know that this bill would receive unanimous support. Allow me, though, to list just some of the problems which I observed when I visited one of the private zoos with Dr. Dianne Balfour, an animal behaviourist and Barry Kent MacKay, an author and wildlife expert. In this particular zoo on one morning, we observed just a few of these items.

Some cages may not be able to contain their captives if the animals were to become excessively agitated, frightened or aggressive. Stand-off barriers intended to keep the public a safe distance from the cages are not designed to discourage children from crossing over them or

crawling under them. Many of the stand-off barriers are so close an individual can lean over and put his hand into the cage. Feeding doors for many cages are unlocked and easily accessible from the public walkway.

Much of the wire fencing is affixed to the exterior of the wooden cage support posts, exposing the wood directly to the animals. Dense brush surrounding many of the cages would make it difficult to locate an escaped animal. A public walkway comes to an end by a wolf enclosure, a situation that could be potentially a trap for a visitor if the animal escaped. Exits are not clearly sign-posted. There is no map of the zoo grounds available to the visitor. During two inspections, no staff members were seen tending to the animals or supervising the visitors beyond the admission gates. Stand-off barriers do little to protect the animals from the public. Many animals are in confined conditions and have no escape from public view. Potentially hazardous protrusions and loose pieces of wire are evident on many of the barriers.

Most animals have little, if any, cage furniture and few playthings to stimulate and occupy them. Many of the animals exhibit repetitive movements such as pacing back and forth in their cages, which would be a sign of stress and boredom. That is not just my observation. It is the observation of Dr. Balfour, a trained animal behaviourist and of Barry Kent MacKay, a wildlife expert and author. That is just one of the zoos that we visited in preparing this bill.

I understand that the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) has stated that she and her officials are currently studying the matter and that they endorse the basic principle of the bill. A year ago I was told the same thing by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). However, he has been silent and has failed to meet with the various professional groups that asked to meet with him to discuss this bill.

I applaud the Solicitor General, if she is studying this problem, and I hope that this bill and the work of Zoocheck and the various humane societies and zoologists who have been writing to government members have played some role in stimulating her interest in this.

I gather that she has stated, or her officials have stated, that they would like a wider sweeping bill, one that would cover pet shops, circuses and a few other things. That is fine, but at the moment we have an immediate problem. I look forward to seeing any broader legislation which the government, be it the Solicitor General

or the Minister of Natural Resources, might introduce.

I remind this government that in 1977, I introduced a bill and the then Conservative Minister of Natural Resources stated that he agreed with it, but he was bringing in a broader bill. At that time, I presented to him and his officials the argument that it would make more sense for my bill to be allowed to go to third reading and proclaimed and then he could introduce his legislation at some time in the future and incorporate my bill or, indeed, if he wished, abolish my bill. I think he had the maturity and the professional character that he could accept that a member of the opposition could have a good idea, worth implementing by the government, and he did so.

I credit the Solicitor General and the Minister of Natural Resources with the same integrity as that Conservative Minister of Natural Resources in 1977. I say to the members of the government, this bill stands on its own. It is very similar to legislation that is now working successfully in Great Britain. Indeed, members of Parliament from Great Britain have told me that on examining my bill, with the experience of the British bill, if they had their opportunity they would introduce my bill rather than the British legislation. None the less, it is quite similar.

My bill, according to the British parliamentarians, is a little bit more practical in terms of the way in which enforcement is carried out. I say to members, pass this bill today. Let it be called for third reading. Do so before another child or a visitor to a zoo is injured. If the government wants more comprehensive legislation, we in the opposition, both the Conservatives and the New Democrats, will welcome this. If the government wants more comprehensive legislation, I am sure this bill will fit into the context of that more comprehensive legislation.

We are now facing a winter season when a majority of the private zoos will be closed. This is the time when they can spend time reconstructing, building and improving the facilities. If this bill is passed today, it will be a signal for them to do so. We will see that come springtime, when these private zoos open again to the public, they will be improved zoos.

Indeed, when Dr. Orenstein and I told a particular zoo that we were paying a visit, we discovered that massive improvements, and I really mean dramatic improvements, were made in a few days pending our visit. We had sent in people before to look at the zoo and, in fact, they documented that there were improvements that

were made, just on the knowledge that we were coming to look at the facilities.

I say to members, pass this bill today. The present legislation is inadequate. Members have received from the zoologists and other people involved in Zoocheck this morning in their mail, a letter that urges members to support the bill. In their latest letter they say:

"The Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act can, in very limited circumstances, prevent gross neglect or physical abuse, but it does absolutely nothing about the shocking conditions that result in animal suffering or death. It does nothing about cage size, layout, design, floor space, cage accessories, presentation, psychological wellbeing of animals, health management or veterinarian care, nutrition, animal acquisition and disposition policies, cage labelling, owner expertise, educational programs and a whole assortment of other conditions that must be met in order to run the facility in a competent, professional and humane manner. It does absolutely nothing about public safety!"

It is fairly clear by the admission of the Solicitor General that she is looking into this that she recognizes that the present legislation is inadequate. I say to members that this legislation has worked elsewhere and I ask them to support this bill. I thank members for their attention.

1120

Mr. Villeneuve: I too am pleased to participate in the debate brought forth by the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip), Bill 129, An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition or Entertainment.

I say at the outset that our party will be supporting this bill. However, I think I will touch on a few areas of concern to myself, and particularly to members of the agriculture and farming community.

The bill, I believe, is quite in order. I do know that some zoos have experienced some very difficult situations and things that probably should never have occurred. I believe Bill 129 will in many ways correct some of the problems that have occurred, particularly in some of the private zoos.

I must admit that I have only visited a couple of zoos, the one at Granby over in Quebec, which is well known to many people, and of course the Metropolitan Toronto zoo at the eastern extremity of this city, and I was very impressed with what I saw. However, we know that many wild animals—and we have to remember these are animals that were adapted to the wild—when in captivity run into some pretty major problems

that even people who are well-intentioned create for these animals.

The area of concern I have is exhibition or entertainment. I think immediately of hobby farms. I guess a hobby farm is looking after mostly domestic animals in an area; that is done for entertainment and for the love of animals and not particularly for economic gain or any other gain. I wonder in a legal interpretation of Bill 129, and maybe the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale can comment on this, just what would happen. Where do hobby farms fit into this situation?

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and I know the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale is very familiar with the OFA, having been an employee of the OFA for many years in his previous incarnation, has expressed grave concerns about animal rights groups. When I first heard of Bill 129 it was immediately brought forth to me that again animal rights groups and activists were at work trying to interfere and create problems for the agriculture and farming community.

I full well realize, having studied Bill 129 fairly extensively, that it is not in any way, shape or form, part of the animal rights group of well-meaning people who have created havoc in other countries. They tell us that the feather industry has effectively disappeared from the Netherlands because of overactive animal rights groups. They are well-intentioned people; however, things get carried away.

Farmers are always concerned whenever, without infringing directly on their jurisdiction, we have a bill that touches on the care and wellbeing of animals. We are talking about wildlife and we are talking about wildlife in captivity. However, based on some of the experiences of animal rights demonstrations and animal rights actions that have occurred, the agricultural community, I think justifiably, gets nervous.

We do have a very efficient agriculture and farming community. We have a very efficient federation of agriculture looking after farmers' interests, lobbying—and that is their job; it is not a dirty word—on behalf of the people who pay the freight for them. This has become a major concern; domestic animals at the farm level.

We talk about layers in cages; yes, and they do produce to, and sometimes beyond, 80 per cent on a daily basis. I recall well many years ago throwing wheat out to the poultry in the farmyard. Yes, they were wild and had the run of the place. However, the efficiency left a great deal to be desired. In today's world, efficiency is

the name of the game. However, we always must remember that the man, the agriculturalist, the farmer who owns the animals is probably the one who cares the most for and about his own animals.

It is always of concern when a bill comes in. "Inspector" means an inspector appointed under section 8 of this act." Farmers and inspectors, particularly when they are government inspectors, do not always get along very well together.

"The bill requires persons to acquire a licence to operate a garden, park or other establishment that keeps animals for the purpose of exhibition to or entertainment of the public. The bill does not apply to circuses or pet shops." I would like to see agriculture included in there, the broad definition of agriculture. I think that would put some of the people in rural Ontario a little more at ease.

Slotted floors in hog, dairy and beef barns: our animal activist people frown on slotted floors. As one who has fed cattle for a living, I do want that three and four pounds of gain per day and slotted floors have worked well. However, I think many of the do-gooders in our society, without really realizing some of the implications, tend to get carried away to the point where they have caused agriculture a great deal of concern.

They have caused farmers to take a second look at their method of operation and indeed the possibility of having these types of groups interfere directly in the operation and the caring of their livestock. I re-emphasize that the true farmers—and I am talking about the vast majority, probably 99.9 per cent of the people who own livestock—are the ones who really do care for animals, and we are talking about domestic animals.

The humane society, I believe, does a commendable job. The society for the prevention of cruelty to animals also does a commendable job. However, their area of jurisdiction is limited, and I realize the bad experiences of some of the private zoos that have come to light over the past number of years necessitate Bill 129. I would respectfully ask the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale to possibly exclude hobby-type farms and agriculture in the broad sense of the word.

I believe the Ministry of Natural Resources is the right ministry to administer Bill 129. We know that in agriculture the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is supposed to, and does by and large, speak for and care for agriculture, but we are noticing more and more that the Ministry of the Environment, for example, is superseding

and coming before the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in many areas that involve agriculture directly or indirectly.

I think this is an area that must be addressed by this government, because our farmers are becoming fewer; they are going through some very difficult economic times. The last thing we need is additional inspectors to come and regulate, regiment and interfere with the normal operation of our farms. Yes, farmers are probably the best policemen of themselves and their neighbours. They do know what is happening at the neighbour's place, particularly if it involves the lack of care for domestic farm animals. They would be the first to assist, help or report, if indeed nothing can be done, when they know animals are not being cared for in a proper fashion.

In conclusion, our party will be supporting Bill 129. I commend the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale, and from his knowledge of the farming and agricultural community, I would like him to consider the exclusion of domestic animals and hobby-type farms, possibly in the regulations that will be applying to Bill 129.

1130

Mr. Kanter: I would like to commence by recognizing the concerns raised by Zoocheck Canada and the many individuals and organizations endorsing its objectives. Clearly Rob Laidlaw, as the co-ordinator of Zoocheck Canada, has spent a tremendous amount of time and effort investigating the issue personally and helping to organize others around this issue. I understand that Dr. Orenstein of the International Wildlife Coalition is with us this morning and that the Society of Ontario Veterinarians and the Toronto Humane Society have also been heavily involved in this matter.

I also want to commend very sincerely the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale for refining the concerns that these groups have into legislative form, the legislation that is before us today.

The government agrees that there is a need for action with respect to the care and protection of animals in zoos in this province. In fact, the issue touches on the responsibilities of six or seven ministers, including the Solicitor General, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil), the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) and several others.

It has been decided that the Ministry of the Solicitor General should take the lead responsibility on this issue, as we are the ministry which is responsible both for administering the Ontario

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which protects animals in distress, and also for public safety, the very two issues raised by the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale.

I would, with respect, disagree somewhat with the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), who suggested that some other minister ought to be responsible. I think we are the appropriate ministry to respond to both of these concerns, the safety of animals and safety of the public; very valid concerns brought forward with respect to discussions of this bill.

However, the government cannot support the proposed legislation in its current form for a number of reasons. First, the scope of the bill is limited to zoos and it therefore results in a fragmentation of responsibility for animal protection.

Let me give the members just one example. There has been concern about puppy mills, kennels that produce a large number of substandard animals. I am just reading from the most recent issue of *Animal Action*, a publication put out by the Ontario Humane Society, which expresses concern about this issue.

It states that in the absence of any regulations, any guidelines or any minimum standards of any kind, anybody can set up a breeding establishment. It suggests that the Ontario Humane Society has no power to create standards or regulations in this area and the provincial government has not enacted any legislation to control this activity. It examines the possibility of the Canadian Kennel Club doing this. It says this may not work and deals with the alternative: to persuade the government of Ontario, and the other provinces, to enact specific legislation licensing, regulating and setting minimum standards for the construction, equipment and operation of breeding kennels, a very similar problem, in our view, and one which also requires a response from the government.

The legislation contains no process for appealing a minister's decision to deny or revoke a licence. I know the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale referred to a number of other licensing provisions. There are, of course, many others in other areas and I think that almost invariably, for fairness, there needs to be such a provision.

Third, the bill designates the Minister of Natural Resources to be responsible for the administration of this act. I have already pointed out several problems that would result from this: first, the fragmentation in having the Minister of Natural Resources responsible for zoos where the

Solicitor General is responsible for animals in distress and public safety in most areas.

Fourth, it describes a licensing scheme. There may be other options for regulating zoos and other establishments which should be explored.

Fifth, a broad range of interest groups must be consulted before any legislation in this area is formulated. Yes, I have seen the quite impressive list of people who stand behind Zoocheck. Until we had some new information, very fragmentary information this morning, I thought it was quite significant that no zoos, public or private, were listed as people who have been consulted.

I was pleased to hear that Mr. White of the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, which is highly regarded, is willing to work with the government in this area. We think this is an important and significant addition and I, as a representative of the minister in this case, certainly support that involvement.

I would like to emphasize the fact that it is not just legislation alone that is going to have a significant effect in improving this situation. As the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale stated, just the mere prospect of a visit or the actual undertaking of a visit by him had a positive effect.

I noted with interest in the report by Mr. Laidlaw, which I have had the pleasure to read—I should not say pleasure, because there is some very disturbing information in here—which I have had the opportunity to read, that in the case of one of the five operations he visited, he noted that there was new ownership and he expected that there might be some substantial improvements. I was also interested to learn that a second one of the five zoos he visited and accounted in this particular report was considered to be fairly satisfactory. So not all zoos or private zoos are necessarily substandard.

I would say that legislation may be a component. Visits that have been undertaken by the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale and others have had an effect. I think the very fact of this debate is also going to have an effect on improving standards in this area.

As has been referred to, the Ministry of the Solicitor General has already begun consultations to determine the best way to address the concerns raised by Zoocheck and others.

Yesterday morning, Domenic Alfieri, the assistant deputy minister in our ministry, met with representatives of Zoocheck Canada, Rob Laidlaw and Holly Penfound, prior to the press conference which they held yesterday.

Ministry staff also wish to consult with a number of other organizations such as the Society of Ontario Veterinarians—I understand it supports this legislation—the Metro Toronto Zoo—and we would like to discuss this further with Mr. White and others—humane societies, the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria, the University of Guelph and representatives of pet stores and other establishments that offer animals for sale.

We believe there is a need to consult with all affected groups before a remedial program is formulated. Establishments like zoos, pet stores and others offering animals for sale are the most directly affected by this legislation and they have had very little input to it. Any standards that are developed should be known ahead of time so that those affected by them have time to prepare.

Our ministry will review existing programs dealing with the current protection of animals for display or sale purposes, develop a comprehensive program that will address any concerns arising from the review and present options for consideration by the minister. Such options might include new legislation or amendments to the existing Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

As I indicated, these consultations have already begun with ministry staff and are expected to be concluded within six months.

This will take some time but I would point out to members and those interested in this issue that the implementation of a bill like Bill 129 will also take some time. The passage of third reading will of course take some time and it will take, I would submit, a considerable period of time to implement this particular piece of legislation.

For example, there is a call for regulations to set out care appropriate to individual needs of various species, appropriate diet, appropriate space, privacy and contact with other animals, appropriate physical exercise, the provision of a physical environment appropriate to its needs, the provision of appropriate professional veterinary care, barriers that are adequate to protect the public, feeding and watering areas for the animals that are adequate. These standards are somewhat vague; they will obviously require considerable time to flesh out.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Zoocheck and their supporters for bringing these concerns to our attention. I would like to commend the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale for raising them in the context of a private member's bill. We support the objectives of the bill but feel that it is limited in scope, that it will result in fragmenta-

tion of legislative authority, another act, another set of regulations, another delivery system and a diffusion of scarce resources and expertise in this area.

We feel a more comprehensive approach is required which cannot be addressed adequately by this bill. I wish to assure all members we will proceed with dispatch to bring forward recommendations to the minister and come up with a new, comprehensive program which will address not only the concerns brought forward by Zoocheck but other issues that need to be addressed with respect to animal care and protection.

Mr. Wildman: I rise to participate in this debate and I want to say, as other members have, that I congratulate my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale for his efforts in this regard and for bringing forward this bill for consideration by the assembly.

I also want to say that I, as a member of this House, have found the information provided to me by Zoocheck very useful in consideration of this legislation.

I must say I am a little perplexed by the comments of the parliamentary assistant. I understand his concern and the government's concern that they want to have proper consideration of protection of animals and the public before bringing in comprehensive legislation. I can understand that. I certainly would be in favour of having broad consultation before developing regulations but, frankly, I do not think it is necessary to vote against this piece of legislation in order for that process to take place.

I think the legislation presented could be accepted, and as my colleague for Etobicoke-Rexdale has indicated, if at some future date the government is going to bring in more comprehensive legislation, that new legislation can incorporate this legislation.

The parliamentary assistant has said he believes the regulations required by this piece of legislation would take a great deal of time to develop. I think that is correct, but I think it is time to start. Certainly the consultative process which has been suggested by the parliamentary assistant would be part of that process of developing proper regulations. I do not think it is necessary to vote against this private member's bill because of the concern that there should be more comprehensive legislation and that it will take time and it will be rather complex to regulate this problem.

The reason I favour this legislation is that as a northern member I have seen many cases where

individuals capture wild animals or in some cases have found the animal young—perhaps the mother has been killed and the young are left, whether they be bear cubs or fawns or small animals like raccoons or rabbits—and they think they should keep these animals, make them into pets and in some cases put them on display.

I think of one particular instance which I found most alarming. I had stopped at a gas station, my children were with me and I found they were quite excited when I finished paying for the gasoline because they had gotten the key and gone around to the washroom, and just at the side of the building where the washrooms were, there was a large cage with two large bears in it.

As I can recall, when I went around to investigate, it was just chicken wire around the cage and these were fully grown bears. These apparently were bears that had been found as cubs and were raised by the people and were pretty tame.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what your experience is with bears, but I think anyone who has seen an adult bear will realize that even a tame bear, if it is startled or alarmed, can react in very unexpected ways, and even a declawed bear could easily kill a human being. One swipe of those powerful front paws would kill anyone here. The bear could just do it because of fear if it was startled and unsure of its situation. Certainly that was an unsafe situation.

As I understand it, there are right now no regulations to prohibit this kind of thing. I suggested the police might look into it, but they were not able to take proper action.

I am very concerned about the aspect of safety and I am concerned about some of the information Zoocheck has provided to me about the way that animals are kept and what this might mean for public safety. The examples that have been pointed out were of young children who put their fingers through the bars and had them bitten off.

I am also very concerned about the welfare of the animals themselves. I think it was most inappropriate for these two adult bears to be kept in such a small space. The owners, I understand, did exercise these bears. They walked them on a leash, but that then raises all the questions about public safety as well. It just was not adequate.

I really have some concerns even about some of our public zoos. I have gone to Marineland and enjoyed the show, as much, I am sure, as anyone here who has seen it, but I wonder what it must be like for a whale to be kept in a pool, no matter how large the pool; it must be like living in a bathtub for the whale, when one considers the

area and territory that a whale could normally cover in a day. I understand that the life expectancy of whales in captivity, even in the best facilities, is much shorter than it is estimated to be in the wild, and I suspect it has to do with the inadequacy of the space that is provided and the situation in which we find many animals in zoos.

I am not sure that I agree with the parliamentary assistant's argument, that to pass this legislation would be to fragment animal protection. Again, I think this could be moved ahead with now and that we could include it in the comprehensive legislation later.

I also do not think the parliamentary assistant was correct when he said this affects pet stores and those who keep animals for sale, because it is my understanding that the bill itself specifically exempts them.

Mr. Kanter: The bill does not relate to pet stores or keeping animals for sale, but there are concerns in those areas as well.

Mr. Wildman: What I am concerned about is the suggestion that it should be the Solicitor General who has the responsibility for it. I am not heavy on one side or the other on that, but it does seem to me that the Ministry of Natural Resources has personnel who have specific expertise with regard to wildlife. They have people who are experts on moose, deer, bears, small game and nongame animals.

It seems to me it would make sense to have the agency of government that has the expertise in wildlife be responsible for drawing up regulations to determine how much space an animal needs, what the proper way would be to protect the animal and the public, and ensuring that the animal is treated properly, gets the proper food and has the proper exercise and so on. It would seem they are the people to do it. I do not quite understand the argument for saying that we should put the Solicitor General in charge when the Solicitor General's responsibility certainly is public safety, but the staff does not have any expertise in wildlife and the requirements of specific kinds of animals.

At any rate, I again commend my colleague for introducing this piece of legislation. When the parliamentary assistant says the government does not support this, I would hope that is not a signal to individual members of the House as to how they should vote on this particular bill. This is a very important issue, one that has concerned me for a long time, and I know it has been a matter of central interest to my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. I would hope all members of

the House will treat this, indeed, as private members' hour and will decide on the merits of the legislation themselves, individually, so that we will have a free vote—that is how private members' hour is supposed to be—on this legislation and that it will be carried by the assembly.

1150

Mr. McLean: I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide some input today on Bill 129, An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition or Entertainment. This bill requires people to acquire a licence to operate a garden, park or other establishment that keeps animals to show to or to entertain the public.

It should be noted quite clearly that this legislation does not apply to pet shops or circuses. Licensed applicants must submit a detailed plan which indicates how they propose to care for the animals and also must demonstrate that they have adequate financing to care for the animals properly. Bill 129 sets out standards for providing and caring for the animals and provides for the inspection of the premises of such establishments. Those who contravene this legislation will be subject to a fine and/or the confiscation of the animals.

I have already noted that Bill 129 does not apply to pet shops or circuses. However, it does apply to such places as the Elmvale Jungle Zoo, the Hostery Bird Sanctuary at Severn Bridge, the Ministry of Natural Resources zoo at Midhurst and the Wasaga Beach zoo.

I must admit that I have mixed feelings about this type of legislation. On one hand, I have concerns about the inhumane conditions to which some captive animals are subject in some privately owned zoos in Ontario. As well, I am concerned about the lack of safety precautions for visitors to some zoos in this province. On the other hand, I am worried about what this type of legislation will ultimately lead to, but I will get to that later.

Zoocheck Canada, an organization concerned with the welfare of animals held in captivity, discovered numerous cases of animals suffering because of human ignorance, neglect or, in some cases, greed. Some of Zoocheck Canada's findings include animals confined in tiny cages that are barely twice their body length, social animals forced to live out their lives completely isolated from others of their own species, animals pacing back and forth or mutilating themselves. These factors alone should be enough to convince all of us here today that some form of regulation or control is necessary.

At the present time, virtually anyone can open and operate a wildlife display or zoo, regardless of his or her education, experience with animals, financing or concern for public safety. This is clearly a sorry situation that demands to be rectified and rectified now. Currently, any qualified person can open a private zoo. Clearly, the existing system is wide open to abuse and as a result there are some extremely poor private zoos and wildlife displays scattered throughout Ontario.

Along with my concerns for animal welfare, I am also worried about the very serious problem of public safety. Some of these establishments are a risk to public safety. They are dangerous and I am rather surprised that we have not read newspaper stories about individuals who have been maimed or killed at some of our zoos or wildlife displays. There are instances where small children could easily come in contact with such animals as lions, camels, foxes, monkeys, porcupines and raccoons. There were inadequate or no barriers to keep the public a safe distance from these animals.

In some instances, cages are left unlocked and cages are poorly constructed. There are no emergency procedures, poor security or supervision and no adequate fencing. What happens if one of these animals gets loose? What happens if someone is attacked? Where can the public seek a safe haven if an animal gets loose? These are the types of things I would personally like to have regulated and controlled.

Many people are raised in a large metropolitan area where the only wildlife they may encounter consists of pigeons, robins, sparrows, cats and dogs. There is a need for private zoos or wildlife centres. They offer a chance for children and people to view and learn about a variety of species they might not otherwise get to see, but we must ensure that the animals displayed are treated humanely. We must also ensure that members of the public can expect a safe environment for them to come to view these animals.

There has to be a balance and I think Bill 129 accomplishes that. Our wildlife is a precious natural resource that in many cases is disappearing from the face of the earth at an alarming rate. If some of these animals are to be displayed to the public, then we must ensure that they are kept in an environment that is humane and will not kill them off. That has to be balanced with public safety.

We tend to feed and house murderers and rapists better than we do our wildlife, whose only

crime is one of roaming freely over our land or through our skies. What a sorry state of affairs when our criminals have more humane treatment and quarters than our wildlife. That just does not make sense. The time has come, and it is long overdue, to treat our animals with the humane respect they so rightly deserve. The time has come to ensure that the public is safe while visiting private zoos or wildlife displays. I think my comments clearly indicate that I support the principle of Bill 129. I do have concerns about pieces of legislation that could lead to things such as this in the future.

I would like to point out that I am particularly enthused about section 7 of Bill 129, which clearly lays out the standards of care for animals in private zoos or wildlife displays. As a farmer and pet owner myself, I can certainly appreciate these standards, which include an appropriate diet and amount of drinking water, the provision of appropriate space, privacy and contact with other animals, an opportunity for the appropriate amount of physical exercise, the provision of a physical environment appropriate to its needs, whether at the licensee's premises or away from them, and the provision of appropriate professional care by a veterinarian.

These standards for care make complete sense. You simply cannot argue about them because they are logical if animals held in captivity are to be treated properly and fairly.

In closing, I would like to note that the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can act in very limited cases to prevent gross neglect or physical abuse, but it does nothing about public safety and it does nothing about important factors in cage size, layout design or floor space. This bill, I believe, covers that.

Mr. Philip: I want to thank the members for their constructive comments. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry points out that hobby farms or farms are not covered by the bill. In order to reassure him, we could simply add that to the exemption section in section 1. I am sure that would meet with his approval.

The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) pointed out the need for balance between the needs of important purposes that zoos serve and the need for safety. I appreciate that he comments that this balance is being achieved in this bill. The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) represents a northern riding. With his great interest in the field of natural resources and wildlife, I think he brought a particular understanding to the bill. I appreciate his endorsements and his comments,

as well as his concern about some of the abuses this bill is attempting to deal with.

I must say I was disappointed with the comments from the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter). He suggests that the Solicitor General is the best person to deal with this and that yet another study is being conducted.

We had looked at the possibility of whether the Solicitor General should have authority over this bill. After consulting with numerous people and looking at legislation throughout the world, we came to the conclusion that as my friend from Algoma has pointed out, the Ministry of Natural Resources and its staff members are best versed in issues related to wildlife, and therefore would be in a better position than the police in dealing with this.

The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick says that the scope of the bill is limited to zoos. That is correct. I had pointed out earlier that there are numerous pieces of legislation, which this government is not abolishing, that deal with care, or indeed with the interaction of man and animals. He is not suggesting we somehow have a comprehensive bill dealing with all of the world's problems or all of Ontario's problems related to animals. It simply is not possible. This bill deals with one problem. If he wants to introduce a broader bill at some other point, then he can do so.

He points out there is no appeal section. Of course, there is an appeal section in every piece of legislation that deals with a decision by government. That is the appeal through the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman in this province would have jurisdiction over this. It is in his act, so it does not need to be put in this act.

He also says that there are many other ways than going the licensing route. In fact, we have studied this. The lawyers working with me who are familiar with this have looked at it. They say that this is the best route to go and that this is the way it works in Great Britain and in other jurisdictions.

The member says that our visits to zoos have had a positive effect and have resulted in some changes, but the positive effect they have had is because the private zoos realized legislation was being brought down and that it was going to be debated today. He talks about the need for more consultation. We have consulted.

I ask the members to support this bill. If the government wants to introduce other legislation later, it can do so.

1200

NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. O'Neill has moved resolution 44.

Motion agreed to.

1206

ZOO LICENSING ACT

The House divided on Mr. Philip's motion for second reading of Bill 129, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Allen, Black, Breagh, Callahan, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Cureatz, Daigeler, Faubert, Harris, Hart, Henderson,

Jackson, Kozyra, Laughren, LeBourdais, Martel, Matrondola, McCague, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Stoner, Wildman.

Nays

Bossy, Epp, Fawcett, Fleet, Haggerty, Kanter, Keyes, Lipsett, Lupusella, McGuigan, Miclash, Morin, O'Neill, Y., Oddie Munro, Pelissero, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Sullivan.

Ayes 29; nays 20.

Bill ordered for standing committee on resources development.

The House recessed at 12:10 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Reville: I have a statement that illustrates some of the systemic problems in our health care system.

There is a gentleman named Robert Sanderson who, while visiting his daughter this summer, had a medical emergency. He was taken to a small hospital in Dundalk, from there to a hospital in Owen Sound and subsequently to a hospital in London, the Victoria Hospital, where he indeed received wonderful care.

The problem is that it is now November 3, 1988, and Mr. Sanderson is still in the Victoria Hospital, occupying a very expensive bed, when in fact what he requires is an extended care facility or a chronic care facility.

The other difficulty is that Mrs. Sanderson lives in the east end of Metropolitan Toronto. She must travel to London to be near her husband and help support him in his recovery and she is piling up hotel bills, even while the Ministry of Health is piling up bills in respect of Mr. Sanderson's care.

This matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Ministry of Health not only by the Sandersons but also by officials at the Victoria Hospital, and nothing has been done. This kind of folly has to stop and it should stop soon. There are good ways to care for Mr. Sanderson and not in the Victoria Hospital.

TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Mr. Cousens: An incident occurred at yesterday's meeting of the standing committee on resources development. This is truly indicative of this government's method of dealing with the issues. The Supreme Court of Ontario ruled on October 20 that the Ontario Highway Transport Board should have the authority to issue international and interprovincial trucking licences in Ontario, not the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton).

Yesterday, the resources committee was surprised to learn of the minister's intention to appeal this decision and perhaps more surprised by the method of the announcement. It was only through pointed questioning that the deputy minister matter of factly revealed the minister's intentions.

The minister's decision to appeal the Supreme Court ruling is no small potatoes. It affects the legality of each and every licence issued to a trucking operation in Ontario since 1954. Perhaps the minister hopes that truckers will not take notice of his actions and the matter will be quietly resolved with no need of a formal announcement. Perhaps the minister is embarrassed to announce outright that yet another piece of Liberal legislation will snake its way through the court system, largely the result of inadequate attention to detail.

I suggest to the minister and his government colleagues that they take a proactive role in drafting new legislation rather than the reactive role to which they are becoming accustomed. Ontario taxpayers cannot afford to have much-needed legislation hung up in the court system, a waste of valuable time and money.

STUDENT FUND-RAISING

Mrs. Fawcett: Last year at this time, I rose in the House to pay tribute to a group of fine teachers and students who had excelled in giving.

This year, they have done what many deemed the impossible. With their annual Terry Fox run in September, staff and students of East Northumberland Secondary School surpassed last year's mark and raised \$14,288, which now brings their grand total to \$50,000—the highest not only in Ontario but in all of Canada.

I was delighted on Friday, October 27, to join with my colleague the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) for the presentation of the cheque to the Canadian Cancer Society. In his address to the student body, the minister praised them for their efforts and impressed upon them the need to continue their understanding and commitment to the disabled.

While there, someone remarked, "I wonder what special ingredients are present in this school that others lack?" I believe it is the dedicated staff which is the catalyst, people like head secretary Lillian Peister, teachers in charge Ann MacDonald and Tim Larry, and Principal Don Dawson, people who care that the proper values are stressed along with the academics. I am sure that all members will once again salute this remarkable achievement by the staff and students of East Northumberland Secondary School in Brighton.

NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. Laughren: Most Canadians are aware of the fact that the federal government has launched its so-called tax reform program. What a lot of Canadians do not know, however, is that phase 2 of that program will take place after the federal election if the Progressive Conservatives win. What a lot of Canadians do not understand is that phase 2 consists of the biggest tax grab in the history of this country. The second-largest tax grab was what this Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) did last spring with the Ontario budget, when he grabbed \$1.3 billion from the Ontario taxpayers.

The intention of the federal government is to roll in the provincial sales taxes with its new national sales tax program. What the Treasurer of this province has done is criticize the federal program without saying whether or not Ontario will acquiesce and be part of that national sales tax program. It is not appropriate for the Treasurer simply to sit back and criticize the federal program without telling us one way or another whether he intends to take Ontario into that national sales tax program. It is simply not appropriate, because the Treasurer will be regarded as an accessory to the fact if that ever happens.

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL

Mr. McCague: We are delighted that the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) have all endorsed the recommendation regarding the Water Transfer Control Act made by this party in its minority report on free trade. In that report, tabled last month, we recommended that the government of Ontario either withdraw Bill 175 or substantially amend it to clearly prohibit the large-scale transfer or sale of Ontario water.

To our New Democratic friends, I would say that while their minority opinion did not address this issue, we welcome their support of our position. To the Premier and the Minister of Natural Resources, I would say how pleasantly surprised we are that their government has indicated its willingness to accept and implement fully one quarter of the Progressive Conservative Party's recommendations on the free trade agreement. This shows that they are not totally afflicted by water on the brain and gives us some hope that they will eventually support and implement our other recommendations.

The degree of protection provided by the bill is negligible when compared to that offered by the federal bill, and I would hope that the minister

will look at it carefully before he comes back into the House with Bill 175.

HAP EMMS

Mr. Owen: I would like to draw to the attention of the Legislature the passing, on October 23, of Leighton Emms. In Barrie, Hap Emms was referred to as "Mr. Hockey." Hap Emms was born in the Barrie area in 1905. Hockey was always a great love. He spent 11 years in the National Hockey League with the Montreal Maroons, New York Americans and the Boston Bruins. However, he is best remembered to the people of Ontario as one of the pillars of Junior A hockey. In fact, the Ontario Hockey League named one of its two divisions after him.

Hap Emms helped found the Barrier Flyers Junior A hockey club and coached it to two Memorial Cup championships. When Hap Emms moved the Flyers to Niagara Falls in the 1960s, he added a third Memorial Cup to his collection for that city. Hap Emms managed to leave behind a legacy of cups and wins in the area of hockey, but I believe an even greater legacy which he left behind him was a sense of decency and sound standards which he instilled into the boys who played under him.

When a youngster plays in the Junior A league, he must leave the security of his family, friends and school for a strange community and a new school. Hap Emms had a wonderful sense of humour, but he never seemed to overlook what a boy was going through and was always there to support and guide. We offer our condolences to Mabel, the widow of Hap Emms, his son Paul and the grandchildren. We thank them for what Hap Emms has left behind by way of hockey achievements, but more, we thank them for what Hap Emms has left behind of fine men in the community who learned their values from a caring coach.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

1340

HURONIA REGIONAL CENTRE

Mr. McLean: My comment is directed to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and concerns the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia. I noted with interest that the recent Ontario Hospital Association newsletter indicated his ministry has provided the necessary funding to enable the Alzheimer's day care centre at St. Joseph's Home in Guelph to treat patients seven days per week.

I still maintain that the minister should give serious consideration to using part of the Huronia Regional Centre as a place for Alzheimer's patients to live and be treated. It would solve a problem about keeping staff at the centre employed as we gradually move developmentally handicapped patients out of the facility and into the community. I urge the minister to use the Huronia Regional Centre for the care and treatment of Alzheimer's patients.

Mr. Speaker: This completes the allotted time for members' statements.

Statements by the ministry. None?

Oral questions. The Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I am sure the minister will have seen the reports in the press today of the death of Brendon McLean.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder if we could have the attention of the members. I have asked the Leader of the Opposition to ask a question. Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: Brendon McLean died on October 10 while waiting for a heart operation. When he finally got in to see his specialist, Dr. Feindt, on October 4, the specialist told him that he should have surgery "tomorrow." He could not; he was put on a waiting list. Mr. McLean died on October 10.

The minister, with great fanfare, last June announced the establishment of a so-called bed registry which she said would begin to deal with this problem. I wonder if she could explain why it is that some six months after her announcement, the bed registry still has not happened.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First, let me say to the Leader of the Opposition and to all members of this House that it is with sympathy and concern that I hear these kinds of stories. It tells me of the need to make the kind of changes we have been talking about within our health care system. But it also is extremely important for us to remember that in fact the Ministry of Health and the people of this province rely on physicians to make the decisions about who requires urgent care and to ensure, based on their very best medical judgement, that people most in need of that care receive it first.

Regarding the cardiac registry, at the present time the project is under development with the participation of physicians.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister is putting doctors in an impossible position with the shortage of nurses and the problems in critical care units. She announced in June the establishment of new critical care beds for heart patients. Those critical care beds cannot be established for the simple reason that there are not the nurses in place in those hospitals in order to allow those beds to be opened.

Mr. McLean was diagnosed in May as having severe angina. He waited six weeks for an angiogram. He then had a series of other tests. It took all this time for him to become eligible for the surgery, which in his case was obviously a very real necessity. Is the minister saying that doctors alone are responsible for Mr. McLean's death, that it is their decisions, in the face of an incredible number of emergencies and urgent situations, which in fact are the cause of what happened? Is that who she is blaming?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have said on numerous occasions that, given the demands and the incredible and compelling stresses on our health care system, which are not unique to Ontario, the enormous challenges facing us—ageing population, changing demographics, and as I have said economic realities, and specifically changing technology which is allowing us to do much more than we ever dreamed possible: the modern medical miracles—what I am saying to the member and what I have said in this House is that it is not my place nor his nor anyone's to assess blame but to acknowledge and recognize that these are enormous stresses and challenges facing us. There are many steps that we must take to deal with these and I think we are making enormous progress. Yes, we rely on the physicians and their best medical judgement to make sure that those in need of urgent care get it first.

The ministry is doing its part as well. We have acknowledged and have flowed the money for additional resources in cardiac beds and in chronic beds. We are dealing with the technologists who are needed to give that kind of treatment and, in fact, we have expanded training programs for respiratory technology as well as cardiovascular perfusion. Let me tell members, these are new specialties that have responded to the changes in medicine. This is the sort of thing that we are finding. Many changes have taken place in the past decade and will continue to take place in the future.

Mr. B. Rae: Let me just ask the minister to consider this case, since she is obviously not prepared to listen to what is taking place in our hospitals today. Arthur Mills learned in March of

this year that he needed a triple heart bypass. His surgery has been cancelled twice and he has now been given a new date. It was first scheduled for October 28. Then it was rescheduled for November 4. Now it has been cancelled again, at the end of October, with no date given.

Mr. Mills's doctor is Dr. Baker at St. Michael's Hospital, and we have spoken with Dr. Baker's secretary. Dr. Baker has 44 patients waiting; seven of them are classified as urgent. The waiting time for so-called elective surgery—and the minister knows how misleading that term can be—is now about six months. Last month Dr. Baker had to cancel 13 surgeries. There are seven intensive care beds for cardiovascular cases. They are all full. They have funding for four new intensive care unit beds, but they cannot get the nurses.

The minister has known for all this time that the nursing crisis and the lack of central direction and leadership from her ministry are as responsible for what is happening to these patients as anything else in the system, yet she has not managed to do anything about it. How can she justify that?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think, in fairness, it is important for us to acknowledge, as we do, that yes, there are many challenges facing us, but much has been done and much will continue to be done. Not only will we have a central bed registry operating to help physicians notify patients where they can get treatment as quickly as possible and to help them make those decisions by giving information across this province, because this kind of treatment is provided in a number of centres, but we also have increased the capacity by some 500 places.

One of the things that we know is that this technology has increased the number of people who have been recommended for this surgery by some 50 per cent, and we have responded with a cardiovascular co-ordinator to make sure that we have a co-ordinated program across the province. We know that the challenges facing us will not be resolved overnight, but we must work together in this House, because health care is not a partisan issue, to resolve the challenges and make the changes necessary to ensure our health care future.

Mr. B. Rae: I have a new question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). It was my understanding he was going to be here today, so I think I will stand it down until he turns up.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Just before I ask him the

question, I would like to congratulate, on behalf of our caucus, the people involved with OMMRI, Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc., and the people of the province of Ontario whose municipalities currently have the blue box program in place. We have just celebrated today the one millionth blue box, a program that was initiated by our government, the Progressive Conservatives.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for a question.

Mrs. Marland: Last week the Liberal government voted against my private member's bill, which would have required municipalities to offer recycling programs. The minister and his parliamentary assistant, the member for Brampton North (Mr. McClelland), are on record as favouring mandatory recycling for municipalities. They both answered yes to the Project for Environmental Priorities' 1987 questionnaire on this issue, which was just prior to the election last year.

1350

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mrs. Marland: My question is that today, as we heard the minister discussing the benefits of recycling, I wonder if he would tell this House why his government voted against a bill that would ensure this great success story across the province.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I thank the member very much, to begin with, for the compliments she has paid to so many people in the province who have been successful in making recycling work, particularly at the blue box level. She has appropriately pointed out individual environmental groups around the province, municipalities and all members of this House from all sides. I know that both opposition critics, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) and the member for Mississauga South, served at the municipal level and were strong proponents of recycling then.

I think the answer is quite simple. The recycling program in Ontario has been so eminently successful in terms of volunteer actions. When the two opposition critics and others who sit on the other side of the House and our side of the House were there as individuals of municipalities, they worked along with environmental groups and established recycling in this province.

It has been exceedingly successful. We have over a million households now on the blue box recycling program. We have some exciting new initiatives in terms of composting, in terms of

apartment buildings, in terms of specialized equipment, which we believe are going to make the program grow right across the province. With close to 100 municipalities on it now, with new municipalities coming forward to participate almost on a daily basis, I think when we have a program that is that successful on a voluntary basis, it would have more of a dampening and condemning effect to impose recycling on a compulsory basis.

If we saw, for instance, that it was not working—and this is where the member asked the question about compulsory—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps you might leave something so that you can respond to the supplementary.

Mrs. Marland: I am not surprised to hear the minister talk about the success of the program. In fact, there are 92 municipalities presently in the blue box program, but that is really only 10 per cent of the 843 municipalities in Ontario.

In spite of this program, we still have a very real crisis in having to deal with the 99 per cent of the garbage that is not recycled. The minister's recycling program will not solve the problems now facing many municipalities across the province whose landfill sites are bursting at the seams, with no solution in sight.

Will the minister tell us if he is going to offer some real solutions, or is he going to continue to allow the problem of the lack of landfill sites and affordable space to continue for those municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think the thrust that we have taken in the field of recycling is doing exactly that. When people ask me what should be the major thrust in terms of the provincial government and its assistance to municipalities, I invariably say that it is in the field of recycling.

I was in Etobicoke as it was launching its—I believe it was the 95th Ontario municipality involved in recycling. I think in 1984 or 1985 there were only 50,000 blue boxes out there. Today, there are well over a million blue boxes and people are participating in it. That tells me the program is working exceedingly well in this province.

When I see that we now spend \$7.7 million as a government, as compared to \$750,000 before we came into office, I see that as a major investment. I anticipate that investment is going to continue to grow as more and more municipalities become involved in the kind of waste management projects that are designed to manage waste as opposed to dispose of waste. The more our government can do to assist municipali-

ties and work with them—and this is what they are asking us to do on a voluntary basis—the more we can do in that direction, the faster this program will grow. It will grow in the kind of way where there will always be markets for those goods. That is the way it is working at the present time.

I congratulate the two critics on the other side for the role they have played, along with everyone else in the province. I think they should be excited about—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mrs. Marland: I am very excited about what we are doing with recycling, but it is the percentage of the garbage that is being recycled and it is the balance for the landfill sites which is the question this minister has not answered.

Peel and Metro now have nowhere to put their garbage and certainly in two years the crisis is only going to be escalating, as this minister well knows. The situation in Peel and Halton he is familiar with. Halton has been sending its waste to the United States. It takes at least five years to locate a new site, leaving these municipalities with nowhere to dump their garbage for three years. If the minister were concerned about the environment, why would he not not address this inevitable crisis now rather than waiting for the municipalities to start sending it to the United States to be burned? My question is, what is the minister waiting for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. You just asked a question.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I do not think there is really anything new about the fact that it is difficult for people at the municipal level to make decisions on where to locate landfill sites. That has traditionally been a difficulty; again, the member, from her own experience at the local level, would know that is in fact a difficulty. However, they are going through a process which is designed to ensure that the site or sites or the particular instruments they use are the best possible ones environmentally. This is difficult. It takes time to do it.

Her leader mentioned the other day, I think in Halton it took 17 years or 14 years; one of the two, maybe 14 years. I would think that would have been 11 years under the Progressive Conservative government and three years under this government. It goes to demonstrate that, regardless of what is happening out there, it is a difficult problem to address, but we are working with them. We are working with the regional municipality of Peel, for instance, trying to find the best possible method of making an environmentally good selection, and we will work with

Metropolitan Toronto, Durham and other people in providing the necessary advice.

I know I am very pleased with the upward trend of the amount of recycled material we are seeing in Ontario. When the previous government was in power, it was one per cent. It is rising as our government is in power, not simply because we are in power and setting out all these incentives, but because there is a lot of excitement out there and a lot of help among environmental groups and municipalities. I think we should all be positive about that. Here is one example where the private sector citizens and government are working well—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I see the Minister of Agriculture and Food is here. Would the Leader of the Opposition like to place the question?

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. B. Rae: A question to the minister. The minister will no doubt be aware that the grape growers have in fact held a meeting, considered the plan which he and his federal counterpart have put to them, and have refused to participate in the plan for the principal reason that the plan, in which Ontario is an equal co-partner, provides for only roughly \$4,500 an acre, whereas the plan which is in place in British Columbia provides something in the area of \$8,100 an acre to those farmers who are going to be pulling out their vines.

Can the minister tell us what Ontario's position is with respect to the \$100-million amount or, more precisely, what Ontario's position is with respect to its \$50-million amount, which is the amount that Ontario as a co-partner with the federal government in this plan has put forward?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: As I indicated in previous questions on this matter, the British Columbia proposal and the proposal here in Ontario are two entirely different proposals. In British Columbia, they are losing over two thirds of their grape acreage. In other words, they are responding to the free trade agreement and, in all likelihood, British Columbia will end up with no industry whatsoever or maybe a very small cottage industry.

In Ontario, we have introduced a \$100-million program which we think will help our industry adjust over a period of 12 years in keeping with the decisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In other words, at the end of that 12 years, we will have an industry which we believe will be competitive and viable. That is

the difference between the Ontario proposal and the British Columbia proposal.

I am aware that the grape growers are not content with the \$100-million program. They have met with us—I believe that they met with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) yesterday—and we have always told them that if it is a case of getting more money in order to meet with the free trade agreement, the people they should be talking to is the federal government.

I believe that the grape growers are going to approach the federal government to see if, indeed, there is more funding available for them.

1400

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order. Supplementary.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister cannot play it all ways. He has to accept the fact that his leader told the grape growers, not once but several times, and not just recently, not just yesterday but has been telling them over the last two and three years, that he would not abandon them, that he would stick up for them, that he would be there for them, that he was not going to see them go down the tube. That is exactly what he has done, because the question is not the global amount.

What matters is how much he is prepared to spend per acre. He has already accepted the fact that he is liable. He has already accepted the fact that he is in for 50-50.

The question that I have for this provincial minister—who is, together with his federal colleagues, again, just as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) was yesterday a co-conspirator on the sales tax, the Minister of Agriculture and Food is a co-conspirator when it comes to shafting the grape growers of this province—is why is Ontario not prepared to say to the grape growers that they will receive an amount per acre which will, in fact, compensate them in real terms for their loss and not force them to bear that loss on their own backs? This is precisely his plan which he is participating in and part of exactly what it requires.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That is a question that I would hope the grape growers would ask the federal government. But I want the Leader of the Opposition to know that there were many meetings and many negotiations being held with the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board and with federal and provincial government staff regarding the \$100-million program, so the \$100-million program at that time had the concurrence of the grape board. The grape board

was part of the decision to bring in a \$100-million program to help the industry adjust over a period of 12 years.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Well, the grape growers were not content with that decision, so now we are saying: "All right, it is back to the drawing board. But, grape growers, we strongly recommend that you go to the federal government to see if there is additional money, if you feel that you have been treated unfairly in comparison to the response that they made in British Columbia to the free trade agreement."

Mr. B. Rae: First of all, the minister tries to say that the grape growers themselves are responsible. I gather what he is saying is that they found it acceptable, yet we have the statement on the record from Jim Rainforth who is marketing board secretary, whom I spoke with on the phone today and who also told the St. Catharines Standard: "We are faced with two basic problems. The amount of money falls far short of what growers expect and need in order to survive. Secondly, because there isn't enough money to go around, it becomes harder to reach a consensus." That is what he is saying. He is saying they have been put in an impossible position. The amount that they are getting per acre is not sufficient. That is what Jim Rainforth says from the marketing board.

The minister said that he thinks the amount is adequate. I spoke today with Russell Duckworth who is the official from Ontario who has been involved in these discussions all the way through, and Mr. Duckworth told me, not once but a couple of times: "My instructions are"—meaning his instructions from the Minister of Agriculture and Food—"that the dollars available from Ontario are adequate and correct for the industry." Those are Ontario dollars.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. B. Rae: Those \$50 million are Ontario dollars. They are not Brian Mulroney's dollars, they are Jack Riddell's dollars. Is the minister saying that money is enough for the industry?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Let me tell the honourable Leader of the Opposition that when the federal government, through some kind of a leaked message from one of its own members, indicated that there was only going to be \$70 million available, this government got into the act, this ministry got into the act, and had that stepped up to \$100 million.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am going to tell him that the grape growers' marketing board was very much a part of the negotiations for this \$100-million program and the various components of the program.

As I indicated, the grape growers are not satisfied with the decision that was made by the grape growers' marketing board and the two levels of government, so we have said, "All right, if you don't think you're being treated fairly in making comparisons with the BC program, you had better go back to the federal government, express your views and see if the federal government is prepared to come up with more money."

Mr. B. Rae: Your dollars are on the table as much as theirs are.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Harris: My question is to the Premier concerning the development of land around the greater Metro area. The Premier will know a great deal of concern has been voiced about how this development has occurred. Just recently, a ratepayers' group in Richmond Hill has asked for a public inquiry, not a police inquiry, to resolve these concerns. A ratepayers' group in Markham has also asked for a public inquiry. Many of the local politicians involved, against whom allegations of conflict of interest have been made, have approached the government, asking for a public inquiry.

All these groups believe, as we do, that a police inquiry is too narrow in focus and would not resolve allegations that fall beyond the limits of what is considered to be "criminal activity."

The Premier has said repeatedly he has nothing to hide, his ministers have said they have nothing to hide, "We have nothing to hide, nobody has anything to hide." Given that, why will the Premier not say yes to the people of these areas who want the opportunity to clear their names, who want to have their say, who want to get to the bottom of this and have the matter settled once and for all and call for a full public inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) dealt very specifically with that question yesterday or the day before, and the difference between a police inquiry and a public inquiry in order to protect the rights of the police to prosecute as well as the rights of individuals. It is the judgement of the law officers of the crown that is the appropriate way to proceed in the circumstances, with a full police inquiry.

That, of course, does not rule out any other inquiry after that, should that be necessary, but the fairest way to dispense justice in this particular case, it is the judgement, as I said, of the chief law officer, should be through a police inquiry.

Mr. Harris: I understand where the chief law officer is coming from on the jurisdiction that involves him. But I ask the Premier, in the much broader jurisdiction that, really, we all are concerned about and he, as Premier of this province, has to show the leadership on, clearly the questions have some immediacy, go beyond a police investigation, deal directly with the integrity of the individuals involved, the integrity of the system, and a police investigation is not going to do anything to clear those up.

For the past eight days, a number of individuals have had their reputations put at risk by a series of articles that appeared in Canada's national newspaper. They want, and I believe they deserve, an independent public inquiry so they can clear their names and their reputations. They know, as I do, and as the government should, that a police investigation is not the answer for that part of it.

So I ask him, for the sake of the individuals involved, to protect their integrity, will the Premier not authorize a public inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member has asked me the very same question in his supplementary that he asked me in his original question and my answer is the same. I think the Attorney General has explained why he believes that is the appropriate route in these circumstances. Obviously, if there is any suggestion of illegality or criminality, that must be tracked down and prosecuted, and as he said, a trial is our way and our system of taking those matters into account. That does not preclude any further look at the situation, should that be necessary at the conclusion of this police investigation.

Mr. Harris: Let me try it one more time. The Premier is not concerned about the reputations of those individuals who have been named, at least not enough to respect their wishes for a full public inquiry. Perhaps he will be more concerned about the integrity of the system.

A police investigation cannot, and I would suggest to him should not, deal with the whole question of our municipal structure, the role of the provincial government in the planning process or the ability of the government to check the depletion of our agricultural lands. All these things in that area can be dealt with only in a full public inquiry, so I will ask the Premier for that

part of the investigation. Will he not show his concern for the individuals and the system, which goes beyond a police investigation? He says it can go on, coexistent, I am presuming. Why does he not proceed now before the municipal elections and let them have some confidence in the system? Let them have a full public inquiry.

1410

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is the same question the member asked me just a moment ago. Indeed, I am concerned about public reputations. I am concerned about how others handle these situations and the judgement required by all of us. I have seen situations in this House where someone will stand up, a member of the member's own party, and make incorrect allegations about someone else outside this House. Once that charge is made, that allegation stands there. His colleague the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) did it last week. If the member is so concerned about public reputations, I think he would want personally to exercise some of his considerable leadership skills in making sure that he uses restraint and that his party members use restraint when casting allegations that are unfounded.

We believe the police are the appropriate independent mechanism to check into these matters. As I said to my friend, if it is necessary or there is other information that has to be unturned, then obviously we can proceed further.

Mr. B. Rae: When I was speaking to a spokesman for the York Regional Police and asked him how long he thought the investigation would take, he told me this morning, "You might as well ask me when the end of the world will come."

The reason I put that perspective into this discussion—

Mr. Speaker: Question to the Premier?

Mr. B. Rae: My question to the Premier really is that there are two very separate problems here. There are allegations with respect to criminal activity. Also, if you look at the overall problem being raised by all the ratepayers' and residents' groups that have appeared and spoken, it is not the matter of reputation so much; it is a question of the planning process, the strength of the Planning Act and the leadership of the provincial government in relationship to planning, not only in York region but in all those areas that are facing such rapid growth.

I wonder if the Premier would not agree that surely there is a place for a public inquiry that

will deal quite separately with these questions of planning, the strength of the Planning Act, the relationship with municipal councils and the question of the monopolisation of land. These are not criminal questions. These are not questions of people's reputation. This is a question of good government, good planning, intelligent use of our resources and the protection of agricultural land. These are issues that are surely the subject of a good public inquiry.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend opposite has a different view than the member of the third party who wants to look at different matters. Everyone you talk to has a different view of the things that should be looked into, whether it is certain individuals' behaviour, certain politicians' behaviour or the processes. I say to my honourable friend that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) is constantly reviewing a number of pieces of legislation under his jurisdiction, be it the Planning Act, the processes or the conflict-of-interest legislation that applies to municipal politicians. Certainly, we have absolutely no hesitation in looking into those matters, looking at ways to make it more fair and more efficient.

My honourable friend will understand that on the one hand we have been working very hard in the ministry, because of the shortage of housing, to accelerate the planning processes, to try to cut the time line in half, because that was seen as one of the considerable drags on getting housing built. On the other hand, now people are saying we have to take more time at these matters. We have said that housing is a priority. We are trying to move as much on to the market as we possibly can, to assist from a governmental point of view.

We have no problem and the minister has no problem with reviewing these matters with the member and his colleagues and any ideas they have to make sure these programs are scrupulously fair and administered in a fair way, that the municipalities assume their responsibility and that we accelerate the plans to assist with the priorities of this province.

Mr. B. Rae: In the absence of leadership from this government, there is planning taking place. It is taking place by developers and it is taking place on their behalf, for them, for their profits, for their monopoly and for their position in the marketplace. That is the crisis we now face.

The issue, really, for the Premier is one he cannot avoid any longer; that is, is he prepared to do something on behalf of people, and is he prepared to do something on behalf of good planning and good government, or is he going to

continue to see what can only be described as planning chaos and development on behalf of the development industry and not on behalf of the people of this province?

This is how the issue is now joined. The Premier should surely realize that and exercise leadership and say: "All right. Let's have an inquiry into the planning process to ensure that York region, Peel region and the citizens in those areas, and in Durham, can be proud of their governments and know that decisions are being made on their behalf and not on behalf of the development industry." That is the issue that faces the Premier quite squarely.

Mr. Speaker: The question was asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I hear what the honourable member is saying, and we are now in the middle of the best form of democracy known to man, i.e., a municipal election, and these issues—

Mr. B. Rae: They don't have the power. They don't have the capacity—

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not agree with my honourable friend, and if there is a suggestion of bad judgement or suggestion that someone is subjected to improper influence—

Mr. Reville: That's what they say,

Mr. B. Rae: It's not a matter of judgement.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Sure it is. There is a question of political leadership, and then the people in York region and Markham or wherever can make their own judgements in that particular matter.

Mr. B. Rae: Why don't you show some leadership. You don't have the organization.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not agree with my honourable friend, unless he is saying the province should go in and expropriate all this land that has been bought up by developers, but to drag a question on for two, three or four years under a public inquiry into these things, I think, is not going to be particularly productive. I think we are in a position—

Mr. B. Rae: I'm talking about looking into the integrity of the whole planning position.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend has a different view from my honourable friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and so many others with respect to this matter. I understand. They read a newspaper article and they cannot really get their hands around it, so the automatic response of an opposition is to call for an inquiry of some type or other, and that is it.

I say to the member that we are looking at the specific allegations, without question, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs is looking at the legislation under his responsibility. If my honourable friend has any ideas on how to improve it, we would look forward to hearing them.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Because of the ministry's inability to address the funding needs of hospitals, hospitals are being forced to close beds, lay off staff and cut services to the bone. If the minister needs any more evidence, all she has to do is read the three Toronto newspapers this morning.

Hilda McGuire of Women's College Hospital is quoted as saying that some 55 beds at Women's College are closed because of lack of provincial government funding and shortage of nurses. These are issues that both opposition parties have raised repeatedly in this House for many months. Patients are waiting for anywhere from 24 to 36 hours, according to Dr. Kirwin, in the emergency department at Women's College Hospital. We have the case of patients waiting on stretchers in hallways for 16 hours, in the case of Alma Tarlattini. Worst of all, we have another case of a 40-year-old man, Mr. McLean—

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Eves: —dying while he was on the waiting list for heart surgery. When is the minister going to realize that the health care system in the province is on the verge of falling apart and when can we expect some leadership and some responsive action to be taken by her and her government to address this problem?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Over the course of the past year, for the information of the honourable members, I have been travelling this province and I have been talking with health care providers in every community of this province. Do you know what I am hearing, Mr. Speaker? I am hearing an acknowledgement of the enormous challenges facing us and a willingness to work with us. There is an acknowledgement that in fact we have the best-funded national health system in the world and that we face enormous challenges, and they are willing to work with us.

We are working with the Ontario Hospital Association and with all the major health care providers. I am meeting with nurses on an individual basis, physicians and with hard-working, decent physicians who want to help us meet these challenges. I encourage the member opposite to join with us and be constructive.

Mr. Eves: Those of us on the opposition side of the House have been meeting with these people long before the Minister of Health started to do so.

For the minister to get up in the House this afternoon, which she did earlier in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), and blame doctors for people dying while they are on the waiting list for cardiovascular surgery is almost ridiculous. It is almost beyond—I do not even know why I am wasting my time talking to her about it, quite frankly. It does not seem to sink in. It is a well-known fact, and almost every cardiovascular surgeon in this province will tell the minister that a patient stands a higher percentage chance of dying while on the waiting list for heart surgery than he does on the operating table itself.

How can she stand there as Minister of Health and say we have a world-class health care system when that statistic exists in the province of Ontario today?

1420

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I said to the member and to the Leader of the Opposition, there is much that we have done, and yet there is much to do. The one thing I have been told, and I have been told this by physicians across this province, is that it is not a question of assessing blame. In fact, we all have a responsibility. The physicians have a responsibility to assess the patients and to determine who should be treated and in what order, based on the urgency of their cases. We have a responsibility. I believe we have lived up to that responsibility. We have expanded hospital base budgets by some 40 per cent in the last three years. We have added \$1 billion between 1985 and 1988 to the Ontario health insurance plan for physician expenses.

Let me tell members that we know that by any international indicator, we have sufficient resources in our system. Physicians are telling me, physicians themselves are saying that we must make more intelligent and effective use of our resources. This is an enormous challenge. We must all work together. I believe we are doing that.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION

Mrs. Griener: My question is to the Minister of Housing. It concerns the Rental Housing Protection Act. In June, the Ontario Municipal Board upheld a decision of Etobicoke city council and allowed the demolition of four small apartment buildings containing 31 units. On June 29, the tenants gave notice to the minister of their

intention to appeal this decision to cabinet. In July, they filed a full submission. In August, they wrote to the minister saying they were concerned about the delay. On September 28, the minister replied that it was before cabinet and she could not comment.

Last Monday, the solicitor for the developer who wants to build condominiums informed Etobicoke council that the buildings were now almost empty, and that therefore the council has decided that if it does not hear from the minister before November 14, it will issue a demolition permit.

How can the minister explain the inexcusable delay in getting a decision for these tenants from cabinet? Does she not recognize that the uncertainty and delay has contributed to making these apartments vacant?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am indeed very concerned about those buildings, as I am about all the rental housing stock in the province. That is the reason we have undertaken a complete review of the Rental Housing Protection Act, which we in fact are in the process of doing. We will try to meet the concerns the member has raised.

Mrs. Grier: How long is such a review going to take? These are tenants who have been forced out of their apartments because they could not get an answer from this minister. Presumably, she could not win in cabinet on the issue. When is the minister going to do something concrete? Is she going to help these tenants? What is she going to do to change the Rental Housing Protection Act so this cannot occur again, and to change it now?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The concern the member raises about vacant buildings is one that we have heard raised before and one I am very aware of. That is one of the reasons we have looked at all of the Rental Housing Protection Act and all of its strengths and weaknesses. We have worked at that for quite a while. I understand the concern the member raises. Let me assure her we will try to do something about it.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Harris: I have a question for my good friend the government House leader. In this morning's Globe and Mail, the government House leader is quoted as saying he would like us to debate the Liberal bill permitting water exports, Bill 175, because he wants "a good debate." We, too, welcome a full debate on this matter. We are pleased that during yesterday's question period, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and the leader of the New Democratic Party, on behalf of their parties,

adopted the recommendation of our party in the report of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs on free trade.

Therefore, in the interest of good and full debate on this matter and to allow the minister some time to rewrite Bill 175, would the government House leader agree with me that a more appropriate course of action would be to set aside the debate on the water export bill, and instead debate the finance committee's report on free trade, which a committee of this House spent more than a year preparing and which on November 22 is not going to have a lot of relevance?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The government has a very clear agenda. Nowhere is it more clear, nowhere is it more definite and nowhere is it more protective of the Ontario interest than in Bill 175, standing in the name of the Minister of Natural Resources. As I have indicated in the past, the government is quite prepared and quite anxious to move forward with the discussion of and with the passage of those bills. We had a very amiable discussion this morning at the House leaders' meeting and we have set the business for the next week. The honourable member for Nipissing will want to be here next Wednesday when my friend the Minister of Natural Resources moves second reading of that particular bill and puts very clearly and very strongly the position of the government of Ontario on this very important and vital matter affecting the water resources of Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: I am trying to read this as the Minister of Natural Resources gave it to me.

This House has already heard the Minister of Natural Resources indicate he supports our party's fourth recommendation in our minority report on the free trade agreement.

There were three other recommendations in our minority report. If the House leader is not prepared to debate the report in its entirety next week in place of the scheduled debate on Bill 175, as I suggested in my question, can he tell us which of our other three recommendations he will be adopting next and when we can anticipate debating legislation on one or all of our remaining three recommendations in that minority report?

Hon. Mr. Conway: At what was a very constructive and very positive House leaders' meeting this morning, my friends the member for Nipissing and the member for Windsor-

Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and I decided that of the four days in the House next week, fully three of those days will be given over to debate the free trade question.

If my friend the member for Nipissing is somehow suggesting that the provincial Tories do not want to be here to discuss the issue of free trade, then I cannot believe my ears, because this government, under the very capable and strong leadership of this Premier (Mr. Peterson), is very prepared to be here to speak to our very strong position on free trade as it affects water, social programs and a whole host of other very important issues. If the Tories want to run from that debate on free trade here, as they appear to run at the federal level, that is their right in a free country.

REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Backlogs in the federal refugee determination process have placed considerable pressure on community, provincial and municipal government resources, not only in Metro Toronto but in regions across the entire province.

In today's Toronto Star, we read how federal immigration policy has filled Metro hostels to overflowing and is forcing Metro to book refugees into motels at a cost of thousands of dollars every day. Federal policy dictates that refugee claimants are not permitted to work until they have an oral hearing, and it is a process that literally has stopped altogether.

My question to the minister is, can he tell the House what the impact of the federal government's inability to administer an efficient and equitable work authorization program has been on his ministry and the coffers of his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The last figure I saw for the total number of refugees in the province was approximately 11,000, and nearly 9,000 of those are in the Metro area. Our best estimate in terms of our interviewing of these refugees on our case load is that approximately 75 per cent of them are employable and, quite frankly, are desirous of working. There is work available for them. However, the federal government's process will not allow them to do that. The cost to the provincial Treasury of this particular process is about \$31 million and I believe the cost to the municipal coffers is about \$4.5 million.

1430

Mr. Owen: We seem to be faced with a situation in Ontario where businesses cannot fill vacancies where there are jobs to be filled and

these refugees want to work but legally cannot do so. The issue cannot be unfamiliar to the federal minister, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, but her lack of action would suggest that a resolution is not a high priority for the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

My supplementary question to the minister is, has he received any information from the federal minister that would suggest a serious effort will be given to resolving the existing backlog of claimants and streamlining the length of time for processing work authorizations? If not, will she reimburse the provincial and municipal governments the unnecessary costs of millions of dollars that we are facing because of her refusal to act?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Approximately six months ago, shortly after the Honourable Barbara McDougall became minister, I wrote her a letter and explained what this situation was doing in Ontario and particularly what it was doing to the refugees themselves. These are people who want to work and for whom there is work available.

I indicated that I understood her difficulty in terms of actually accepting them as bona fide immigrants into the country but made the proposal that the federal government could enact, in the short term, time-limited, renewable work permits. That could be done and could meet this particular difficulty. As a matter of fact, I wrote about a three-page letter.

About a month later, I got back a three-sentence response which essentially said: "Thank you for your interest. I'll look into it and I'll get back to you." We have not had any response whatsoever and we are still waiting.

My last understanding from Metro is that the oral review process has come to a complete stop in terms of any new applications.

ONTARIO ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

If the provincial Liberal government is really committed to environmental protection, to the protection of the interests of Ontario's farm community and to the proper stewardship of the land, water and air quality in this province, could the minister explain why there was no input from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture or other farm organizations on the membership of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We do have an excellent agricultural person on that round table, a person by the name of Grant Collins.

When these appointments were made, I do not believe any groups were consulted. They were appointments made by the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. Elston). He just followed the same procedure with all appointments, as he did with the appointment of the agricultural person. We are just delighted that we have a person representing the agriculture and food industry on the round table.

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister explain why, at the time the announcement was made, of the 19 appointees to the round table, they included six businessmen, one from labour, one from the municipal sector, four environmentalists, one academic and six ministers, and there was nobody from the agricultural sector?

It was only subsequently that the Chairman of the Management Board consulted with the county federation in his own area to get a representative. The OFA and OFA executive were never consulted in this matter, and the president had to phone the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to complain about the fact that the minister had bypassed the provincial executive.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Did I hear a question there? If there is a question there, I believe the answer is that, at the time, there was no confirmation.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. McLean: My question is for the Minister of Health. The board of directors at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital was told by her officials that she would decide by March 1988 whether or not it could proceed with plans to build a second campus for acute care, while existing facilities would be used for long-term care. March has come and gone and the board is still awaiting word from her.

Can she tell us today if the hospital board can proceed with the planning required to build a second campus?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I have mentioned to the member before—and I know his interest in Orillia—the capital planning for the province is under review at the present time. I was recently in Barrie, where I met with the health providers from the communities surrounding Barrie, such as Orillia. I believe there were some people there from Midland as well. We had an opportunity to talk about the health needs and of our vision for the future and the important role our capital planning plays in that, to make sure we are planning for the future needs of the province.

Mr. McLean: With regard to the minister's vision for the future, the people of Orillia would

like to know when they can proceed to planning for the new hospital. They have raised over \$4 million out of the \$5 million they set out to raise. It is a substantial amount. The fund-raising drive has been very successful. It has come to the stage now that unless she says they can proceed with planning, that fund-raising is going to cease. When we will she give us the assurance and the approval to proceed with the planning?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member would likely know, I also met with some of the municipal and regional representatives of that region. We talked about the need for regional planning and their concern that whatever the province does in moving forward with its capital plans has an impact on the capacity of the municipal partners and the region to raise their fair share. It is the reason I believe we must do the kind of regional planning not only for the delivery of services, but also in the area of capital.

I am looking at the capital needs of the province with that vision of planning for the year 2000 and beyond, as well as planning on a regional basis to make sure that we acknowledge that not every hospital can or should provide every service to everyone. Everything we do must give us access to the most effective quality services as close to home as possible.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Faubert: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. In the past few days there has been much misunderstanding contained in publicity over a letter from the minister to the chairman of the Toronto Transit Commission, Jeffrey Lyons, regarding the Spadina subway line extension to Sheppard Avenue. Can the minister advise the House of exactly what was contained in that letter?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I appreciate the member's interest in transit issues in Metro Toronto and, of course, across Scarborough. Basically, there were three issues raised in the letter, a follow-through from the statement we made here in the House last May that we would move to protect a Sheppard corridor and consider further discussions with respect to other transit initiatives. We talked in general terms about other initiatives with respect to fair integration and co-ordination of services between TTC and GO Transit and matters of that type.

Mr. Faubert: Because certain municipal candidates in Scarborough are misrepresenting the intention and impact of this extension on the future of the Sheppard line, can the minister

advise this House of what the real effect an approval of the Spadina line extension will have on the future of the Sheppard subway line proposal?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Certainly there seems to be some very serious misunderstanding on the part of certain municipal candidates, but this seems to be the season for that. What we are saying is that in order to build a subway, you simply do not draw a line down a road map; you must know precisely what is underground, what may be planned at intersections and other possible station locations.

What we are doing, in precise terms, in conjunction with the TTC, is providing the funding—roughly \$1 million—as we said we would do, in order to protect the corridor the full extent of the Sheppard line, including the Scarborough component, which the member would know was originally excluded from the Network 2011 initiative.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Breagh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning 793038 Ontario Ltd. This of course is the company that is involved in the questionable decision by the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority on two counts now. One is, it appears that the housing authority is involved in a scheme to prevent a union from being formed with that new company, not to mention its breaking its own rules; and the second point is that the lawyer for the company appeared to have in his possession confidential records from the housing authority.

There appear to be substantial irregularities in the letting of that contract. What is the ministry doing to review that particular instance?

1440

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Yesterday, I told the House that if there were any ambiguities concerning MTHA's decision on that contract, when the committee of the OHC board met on this topic, its decision would reflect those ambiguities. Indeed, this morning, the Ontario Housing Corp. committee met and decided to refer this entire decision back to the MTHA board to act on.

The MTHA board, as I will remind members, is made up of appointees from all three levels of government. There are appointees from Metro Toronto, appointees from the federal government and appointees from the provincial government. It is within the power of the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority to make this deci-

sion. It is now back at the MTHA board to make this decision.

Mr. Breagh: We not only know how the appointments are made, we actually know who sits on the authority and we know what their part was in each little portion of this decision-making process. Yesterday, the minister said it was not their decision. Is it true that she just said now that it is their decision? Just exactly what is the Ministry of Housing doing in the middle of all this, which, to be polite about it, appears a highly irregular action?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I said yesterday that it was up to MTHA and the Ontario Housing Corp. to make operational decisions. I have repeated that today.

What has happened is that the OHC committee has in fact looked at this decision, said there were too many ambiguities in it and sent it back to the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority board. Now it is going to be handled by the MTHA board, which has, as I repeated earlier, membership from all three levels of government, appointed by all three levels. I know the board will make a decision about how to behave in this matter consistent with the guidelines and methods of operating.

Let me also say I have been assured that all tender bids for MTHA comply with the Ontario labour laws and meet the Ontario fair wage schedule.

WINE INDUSTRY

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: A question was asked by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the grape adjustment program.

I was partly in error in my response when I said that the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board assisted in negotiating the \$100-million package. On reflection, I believe the grape growers' marketing board asked for \$156 million. Both levels of government made available \$100 million, feeling that would be an adequate package to help the industry adjust to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decision, but the grape growers' marketing board did participate in negotiations as to how that \$100 million would be appropriated to the various components of the program.

CIVIL SERVANTS' LEGAL FEES

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: It deals with a question asked yesterday by the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman). I had undertaken to get back soon with

information on that particular item. He made allegations which I understood or felt at the time probably were baseless, as they mostly are from that member. He has failed to turn up in the House today and I wonder if you could actually suggest that somehow we can put on the record, when we have a response to that type of question, the real material that is required for the public to understand.

Mr. Speaker: The usual procedure is that if a member accepts to return with a response, he may respond in the following question period. Usually, it has been the tradition here that most members have recommended that the question be responded to when the member is present. However, the minister also has the opportunity to respond during ministerial statements if he so desires.

Mr. Brandt: I would just like to advise the minister, in the light of the comments he has made, that the member for Leeds-Grenville is in fact ill today. It was not through some form of malicious planning that he inadvertently is not available in the House, but I would like to advise the minister that he should not read something into the member's absence that is not there. He is just unavailable for today's session.

Mr. Speaker: Well, we can go on so long.

Mr. Harris: I would indicate to the minister who raised the point that I know it would be very acceptable to our critic, who is ill today, and to our party if the minister would make a statement during ministerial statements on Monday.

PETITIONS

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND

Mr. Reycraft: I have a petition addressed to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated at the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the crown in the province of Ontario continues a lengthy, futile and expensive prosecution against the Church of Scientology; and

"Whereas at no time in recorded history has an entire church been charged with a criminal offence for the actions of individuals, and freedom of religion in the province is at risk; and

"Whereas the alleged offences occurred over a decade ago and those responsible have been expelled from the church or rehabilitated,

"We petition the Attorney General and the government of Ontario to withdraw the charges against the church and end this prosecution."

This petition is signed by 212 people, most of whom appear to be residents of Riverdale, and I have affixed my signature thereto, as is required by the standing orders.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Dietsch: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we strongly oppose the intention of Bill 113 for Sunday opening, we believe that the Ontario government must act to maintain Sunday as a common pause day."

It is signed by a number of employees from the Checkpoint Chrysler in my riding and I have affixed my name thereto.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TAVONE ENTERPRISES LIMITED ACT

Ms. Collins moved first reading of Bill Pr63, An Act to revive Tavone Enterprises Limited.

Motion agreed to.

GAME AND FISH AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Wildman moved first reading of Bill 185, An Act to amend the Game and Fish Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Wildman: The purpose of the bill is to require hunters to wear not less than 3,250 square centimetres, approximately 500 square inches, of blaze-orange material or such other quantity of coloured material as the regulations may permit for the purpose of protecting them in the bush so that they are visible to other hunters. A similar amendment was moved by the minister last

spring, but he has not moved any further on getting it passed through the House.

1450

ORDERS OF THE DAY

La Chambre en comité des subsides.

House in committee of supply.

CRÉDITS, PROGRAMME DES AFFAIRES FRANCOPHONES

ESTIMATES, FRANCOPHONE AFFAIRS PROGRAM

M. le Président: Monsieur le Ministre, voulez-vous faire votre présentation?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Monsieur le Président, avec votre permission, est-ce que je pourrais m'approcher de la table? En plus de cela, j'aimerais avoir la permission d'avoir deux personnes avec moi.

Je suis heureux de me présenter devant le Comité en ma qualité de ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones, afin de soumettre aux députés les prévisions du budget des dépenses de l'Office des affaires francophones et de la Commission des services en français pour l'exercice financier de 1988-1989.

Comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, l'Office des affaires francophones consacre depuis près de deux ans la quasi-totalité de ses énergies à coordonner la mise en oeuvre de la Loi de 1986 sur les services en français. Cette loi, aussi appelée la Loi sur les services en français, atteste la volonté du gouvernement de reconnaître la contribution de longue date de la langue et de la culture françaises à la richesse de notre province.

D'ailleurs, le préambule de la Loi évoque avec éloquence l'intention de l'Assemblée législative lorsqu'elle adoptait la Loi sur les services en français à l'unanimité, le 18 novembre 1986. Les députés ne sont pas sans savoir que cette mesure législative a eu un effet considérable sur le programme des services en français.

Comme je l'ai déjà mentionné, la plus grande partie des activités de l'Office des affaires francophones dans l'année dernière a porté sur ce dossier, et l'Office, bien entendu, continuera d'y consacrer toutes ses énergies afin d'assurer la mise en oeuvre de la Loi sur les services en français d'ici novembre 1989.

Nous sommes appuyés par la Commission des services en français dans la réalisation de ce défi d'envergure. La Commission a pour mandat de conseiller le gouvernement au sujet de la mise en oeuvre de la Loi, et je vous ferai part des activités

de la Commission, Monsieur le Président, un peu plus tard au cours de cette présentation.

De mon côté, j'ai consacré beaucoup de temps à des rencontres de consultation et d'information au sujet de la Loi sur les services en français. Ces rencontres portaient sur tous les aspects de la mise en oeuvre.

À ce propos, je tiens à souligner publiquement l'apport très important de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario lors des fréquentes rencontres que nous avons eues. L'ACFO a manifesté un esprit de collaboration qui a été très utile dans l'évolution de ce dossier. D'ailleurs, ce nouvel état d'esprit a aussi entraîné des retombées bénéfiques pour le milieu francophone.

Je pense qu'il n'est pas exagéré de dire que nous sommes témoins d'une nouvelle ère de la francophonie en Ontario. Cette nouvelle réalité entraîne la mise en commun d'intérêts qui évoluaient auparavant de façon indépendante, souvent à l'insu des autres. Citons en exemple le groupe de travail établi entre le ministère des Affaires municipales, l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario et l'ACFO afin d'étudier la question de la prestation de services en français par les municipalités.

J'aimerais aussi mentionner le colloque sur les services sociaux et communautaires en français, une entreprise conjointe de l'ACFO, du ministère des Services sociaux et communautaires et de l'Office des affaires francophones, qui s'est tenu en juin 1987 et qui a été rendu possible grâce au financement accordé par ces organismes. Un colloque semblable doit avoir lieu en novembre 1988, et plus précisément à Sudbury, dans deux semaines, pour discuter des services de santé.

On le constate donc à plusieurs niveaux: l'avenir de la collectivité francophone de l'Ontario est plus que prometteur.

J'ai souligné souvent l'importance pour la collectivité de participer activement au processus décisionnel pour faire avancer la cause des Franco-Ontariens. Je pense ici à la nécessité que des francophones siègent aux conseils d'administration des hôpitaux, ou encore au sein des comités des bibliothèques.

Les députés ne sont pas sans savoir que certaines personnes s'acharnent depuis quelque temps à présenter la Loi sur les services en français comme une mesure inacceptable aux anglophones.

I believe we have a responsibility to explain to the people that the intent of this legislation is to recognize the rights of francophones living in designated areas to receive government services

in the French language and that it in no way affects the rights of anglophones in this province. In this regard, I personally or my officials are available to speak to any group interested in hearing about our French Language Services Act. If any member is aware of any such groups, I would be grateful if he could let me know of their concerns. It is of the utmost importance that we continue providing information regarding the provisions contained in this act.

J'aimerais profiter de cette occasion pour rappeler les principaux aspects de la Loi.

La Loi reconnaît et garantit le droit de tous les francophones de l'Ontario de recevoir des services gouvernementaux en français dans les régions désignées. Les services garantis sont ceux qui sont offerts au public par les sièges et les administrations centrales des organismes gouvernementaux, de même que par des bureaux qui sont situés dans des régions désignées ou qui les desservent. Ces services comprennent notamment les communications verbales et écrites, l'affichage et les avis publics, les formulaires et documents, les services d'information et les audiences publiques en français.

C'est pour cette raison que la Loi prévoit que les garanties législatives se rapportant au droit de recevoir des services en français entreront en vigueur trois ans après la date de la sanction royale de la Loi, c'est-à-dire le 19 novembre 1989.

En ce qui concerne la Législature, la Loi prévoit que le recueil des Lois refondues de l'Ontario de 1990 contiendra les versions française et anglaise des lois qui seront en vigueur le 31 décembre 1990. Par ailleurs, une autre disposition stipule que tous les projets de loi publics qui seront présentés à l'Assemblée législative après le 1^{er} janvier 1991 seront présentés et adoptés en français et en anglais.

Avant d'entreprendre la revue détaillée des activités de l'Office des affaires francophones et de la Commission des services en français, j'aimerais dire quelques mots au sujet des prévisions des dépenses budgétaires des deux organismes.

The program's total budget is \$3,584,600. This includes \$694,100 for the French Language Services Commission of Ontario and \$2,890,500 for the Office of Francophone Affairs. I would like to point out that this program has received no increase in funding since last year except for salary awards and an increase in the grants program.

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Let me explain. The Office of Francophone Affairs in 1987-88 increased its staff to 28 in order to implement the French Language Services Act. This year the staff has remained the same. The total salaries in 1987-88 were \$1,020,800 and in 1988-89, \$1,066,500, an increase of \$45,700, which represents a 4.4 per cent increase. As for the Ontario French Language Services Commission, the staff numbers seven. Last year's salaries were \$274,500, and this year, \$286,900, which also represents a 4.4 per cent increase.

As for the offices and the commission's direct operating expenditures, they have remained the same over the last two years: \$731,200 for the office and \$357,000 for the commission. The office also has one transfer payment program to the community support fund. Last year this program's budget was \$870,000, and this year, \$910,000.

I would like to point out that requests for funding amount to well over \$3 million. While they have distinctly different mandates, the Office of Francophone Affairs and the Ontario French Language Services Commission work closely together. They will help us carry out the important commitment made by our government regarding the provision of services to Ontario's francophone population. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the utmost importance of the role of the commission, which, together with the Office of Francophone Affairs, will ensure that all government ministries and agencies comply with the French Language Services Act.

Naturally, the commission will have to keep in close touch with the francophone community to be able to determine the real needs of the francophone population with respect to French-language services. Allow me to bring to members' attention that the agenda for next year is extremely full. We need to continue our work towards implementation of this act we have passed. As one can see, there is still a lot to be done before November 19, 1989, the date when all services should be in place.

J'aimerais maintenant parler du rôle du directeur général de l'Office des affaires francophones. Sa première tâche a été de rencontrer les coordonnateurs des services en français dans le but d'élaborer, avec leur participation, les mécanismes de mise en oeuvre de la Loi de 1986 sur les services en français. Évidemment, le succès de cette entreprise reposait principalement sur de bonnes relations entre l'Office des affaires francophones et le Comité interminis-

tériel des coordonnateurs des services en français.

Depuis son entrée en fonction, le directeur général a coordonné toutes les activités de l'Office. Un manuel des procédures de mise en oeuvre de la Loi a été préparé. En étroite collaboration avec les coordonnateurs, ce document a été distribué à tous les cadres des ministères, de façon à leur permettre d'entreprendre l'élaboration de leurs plans respectifs de mise en oeuvre.

Depuis le mois de juin 1987, l'Office a consacré beaucoup de temps à étudier les plans qui ont été soumis par les ministères. Ce processus exigeant se déroule selon l'échéancier prévu. Entre-temps, il s'est avéré nécessaire de procéder à une réorganisation administrative de l'Office des affaires francophones en fonction de son nouveau mandat, maintenant défini par la Loi.

L'Office compte maintenant trois unités administratives distinctes, à savoir: la Direction des services aux ministères, la Direction des politiques et de la recherche et la Direction des communications et des relations communautaires. J'aimerais maintenant faire part aux députés des réalisations de chacune des directions de l'Office.

La Direction des services aux ministères a été créée le 1^{er} avril 1987. Elle se compose d'un directeur, d'un conseiller juridique, de quatre analystes et d'un commis. Son rôle principal est d'aider les ministères dans l'élaboration et la réalisation de la mise en oeuvre ainsi que dans la gestion des services en français.

Après de nombreuses consultations à tous les niveaux, un manuel de procédure de mise en oeuvre de la Loi a été distribué à tous les ministères le 3 mars 1987. Une lettre accompagnait cet envoi, indiquant clairement les priorités de l'Office pour l'an un, c'est-à-dire l'exercice financier de 1987-1988. Ces priorités étaient de nature structurelle, c'est-à-dire qu'elles devaient servir de bases solides au développement des étapes subséquentes de la mise en oeuvre dans chaque ministère.

Les premiers plans ont été reçus par l'Office au début du mois de juin 1987 et les autres ont suivi tout au cours de l'été. Au fur et à mesure de leur arrivée, les plans ont été distribués aux analystes, qui les ont étudiés et ont procédé à une évaluation de chacun en vue de la préparation des présentations officielles par les ministères.

Au cours de l'exercice financier 1987-1988, presque tous les ministères, offices, secrétariats et grandes agences ont présenté leur plan à

l'Office et à la Commission des services en français. Ces présentations ont été une occasion pour les ministères de décrire clairement leurs responsabilités, leur champs d'action, leur méthodologie de travail et leur philosophie de services au public et, en particulier, au public francophone.

On a demandé à l'Office de préparer un rapport global sur le financement de la mise en oeuvre pour l'exercice 1987-1988 et de le soumettre au Conseil de gestion pour son approbation. À cet égard, les éléments prioritaires ont été identifiés à partir des plans soumis. De nombreuses consultations de clarification furent tenues avec les ministères et les analystes du Conseil de gestion chargés des budgets de dépenses de chaque ministère.

Ainsi, les ministères se virent allouer par le Conseil de gestion des fonds supplémentaires d'une valeur totale de onze millions de dollars. Dans l'exécution de son mandat pour l'exercice financier 1988-1989, la Direction des services aux ministères utilise l'information issue de l'analyse des plans, des présentations faites par les ministères et des nombreuses rencontres tenues avec des groupes et des personnes de tous les secteurs de l'activité gouvernementale afin d'identifier les difficultés principales se rattachant à la mise en oeuvre et d'y trouver des solutions innovatrices acceptables à toutes les parties intéressées. À cette fin, le personnel de la Direction coordonne et participe aux activités de plusieurs comités interministériels mis sur pied par le directeur général.

This analysis and presentation of the ministry's implementation plans last year allowed the office to identify not only the corporate issues and issues of common interest to several ministries, which led to the creation of the committees, but also unresolved issues particular to each case.

The most important of those unresolved issues have been the object of a diligent and assiduous follow-up. Meetings are ongoing between the executive director, assisted by the ministry services branch and the ministries concerned. At the end of June, the office also requested all ministries to revise their original plans and to adjust them so as to ensure that services will be in place by November 1989. These amended plans will be evaluated by the branch and, once approved by the commission, will constitute the final and binding versions against which all future evaluations will be made.

With the November 1989 deadline in mind, the branch is already developing the procedures,

conditions and instruments necessary for the designation of certain government offices for the purpose of delivering French-language services as well as for the exemption of services that the ministries will request. The designation of offices refers only to those ministry operations with several service outlets in one city, some of which may, in accordance with the act, be designated to provide services in French. This type of designation was permitted by the act in order to avoid duplication while respecting the rights of francophones to services in their own language.

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Les priorités de mise en oeuvre pour l'an deux ont été communiquées aux ministères en décembre dernier. Les demandes des ministères furent transmises à l'Office et analysées au cours de l'hiver. Les résultats furent ensuite communiqués au secrétariat du Conseil de gestion.

J'aimerais maintenant parler des activités de la Direction des politiques et de la recherche. À la suite de la restructuration de l'Office en 1987, le mandat de cette direction a évolué considérablement. Elle s'est vu confier un rôle central dans les efforts de l'Office pour assurer l'accès aux services en français dans les régions désignées.

Au chapitre de la mise en oeuvre de la Loi 8, la Direction a continué à participer à des consultations et à des discussions avec les ministères et les organismes communautaires afin d'assurer une interprétation éclairée et une application saine de la Loi. Pour ce faire, elle a réalisé des recherches qui lui ont permis de fournir des renseignements aux coordonnateurs et à d'autres fonctionnaires du gouvernement sur les programmes en place et sur les données statistiques. La Direction a aussi entrepris plusieurs recherches dans le but de répondre à des questions soulevées par l'Office, par d'autres ministères ou par le public.

As minister responsible for francophone affairs, I am responsible for administering the French Language Services Act. On my behalf, in compliance with clause 12(2)(d) of the act, the policy and research branch of the Office of Francophone Affairs investigates and responds to public complaints about the quality of French-language services provided by government ministries and agencies. To this end, in 1986 the branch chaired a subcommittee of French-language services co-ordinators whose mandate was to establish procedures for ensuring the efficient and fast handling of complaints. These procedures are now in place.

Between May 1, 1986, and May 31, 1988, the office received 180 complaints from the public and various agencies. In general, ministries took necessary measures to ensure that similar problems did not recur. However, some concerns raised dealt with more complex issues and will most likely be resolved as the French Language Services Act is implemented.

Une des tâches principales de la Direction des politiques et de la recherche est l'analyse des soumissions présentées au Conseil des ministres. Depuis le 1^{er} avril 1987, elle a analysé plus de 150 soumissions. Dans ses analyses, la Direction s'est concentrée sur les dossiers les plus importants à l'égard des services en français et des besoins de la population francophone. Entre autres, le domaine des services sociaux et de la santé, de l'éducation, de la formation professionnelle, de l'administration, de la justice et des relations intergouvernementales ont retenu son attention.

Les analyses des soumissions ont révélé que les besoins des francophones ne sont pas toujours pris en considération lors de la planification des programmes. L'Office s'est servi de ces analyses pour faire aux ministères concernés des recommandations sur la façon d'incorporer les services en français dans leurs soumissions et dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre de leurs programmes.

La Direction des communications et des relations communautaires a la responsabilité d'assurer des communications internes et externes au sujet des activités du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones et de l'Office des affaires francophones. Elle doit coordonner la préparation et la diffusion des documents, rapports et publications du ministre et de l'Office. Elle doit aussi renseigner et conseiller les directions de communications des ministères.

Par le passé, la Direction a organisé des réunions d'information régulières avec les communicateurs francophones des ministères et entend poursuivre ces activités dans l'année 1988-1989.

La Direction joue aussi un rôle important dans l'élaboration de stratégies de communications gouvernementales visant à informer les francophones sur les services en français. L'Office doit aussi, lorsque nécessaire, élaborer des directives pour le Conseil de gestion du gouvernement sur des sujets variés et complexes.

Il est entendu que l'Office doit maintenir des liens avec les médias d'information de langue française et de langue anglaise, électroniques comme écrits. L'Office entretient des rapports

étroits avec, entre autres, l'Association de la presse francophone hors Québec. D'ailleurs, en mars 1988, la Direction publiait, de concert avec cette association, un cahier spécial portant sur la Loi sur les services en français intitulé «Zoom sur les services en français». Plusieurs ministères ont collaboré financièrement à la réalisation de cette initiative, dont je suis particulièrement fier. Ce cahier a été distribué à plus de 130 000 exemplaires par le biais des journaux hebdomadaires francophones de l'Ontario.

De plus, l'Office administre depuis plus de sept ans le Fonds de soutien à la communauté. Le Fonds de soutien à la communauté permet à l'Office des affaires francophones de soutenir les efforts de développement communautaire de la population franco-ontarienne. Ce fonds finance, en tout ou en partie, des activités ou projets qui visent à améliorer les services offerts à la population francophone.

En 1987-1988, 870 000 \$ ont été alloués aux organismes franco-ontariens pour des projets communautaires un peu partout en Ontario. En tout, une centaine d'organismes communautaires franco-ontariens ont bénéficié, en 1987-1988, de l'appui financier du Fonds de soutien.

Une importante composante de la Direction des communications et des relations communautaires est le programme Renseignements Ontario. Il s'agit d'un programme qui vise à améliorer les communications entre les francophones et le gouvernement provincial. Pour ce faire, Renseignements Ontario offre des renseignements téléphoniques gratuits à tous les citoyens de l'Ontario. Ce programme demande beaucoup de recherche, car les appels sont souvent fort complexes et requièrent non seulement une connaissance générale des services et des programmes gouvernementaux mais une analyse des problèmes présentés pour savoir à quel ministère, agence ou palier du gouvernement le client s'adresse.

En plus d'être un service d'information, Renseignements Ontario agit comme service de recherche en permettant de résoudre les problèmes que les citoyens peuvent rencontrer lorsqu'ils communiquent avec le gouvernement.

En plus d'assurer un service d'information téléphonique, le personnel de Renseignements Ontario parcourt la province avec un kiosque d'information duquel on peut se procurer en français les renseignements les plus récents sur les programmes gouvernementaux. En 1987-1988, le kiosque de Renseignements Ontario était présent à des événements aussi populaires que Contact Ontario, la Semaine francophone

de l'Université d'Ottawa, le Salon du livre de l'Outaouais, le congrès de l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario et le Sommet de la francophonie.

The office has also met with a number of groups to inform them about the French Language Services Act. These meetings were conducted by communications and community relations branch staff. What is more, the branch has made a video to be used for this purpose. The English version of this video has been shown throughout the year to Ontario civil service personnel at workshops and management meetings. In addition, the French version has been shown on a number of occasions to community groups.

The office has an extremely important role to play with respect to both civil servants and the Ontario public. Naturally, the passage of the French Language Services Act raises questions in the minds of unilingual civil servants who believe that their opportunities for advancement will be limited because of the fact that they speak only one language. These concerns must be addressed by any information activity undertaken by the office.

Pour ce qui est des communications externes, l'Office a tenu, depuis 1980, plusieurs campagnes de publicité dans les médias de langue française. Ces campagnes visaient à informer les francophones de la disponibilité des services en français dans les régions désignées.

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L'Office était présent au pavillon de l'Ontario lors du Sommet de la francophonie qui s'est tenu à Québec en septembre 1987. Cette présence nous a permis de constater que les Québécois étaient très peu informés au sujet de la francophonie en Ontario. Le pavillon fut une révélation pour bien des Québécois, qui se sont montrés fort intéressés par la Loi sur les services en français et par les initiatives gouvernementales à l'intention des francophones.

S'il est important d'informer les francophones et les anglophones de la province, il est aussi important que l'Ontario soit perçu par les autres provinces comme conscient des besoins des francophones et soucieux d'y répondre et de mettre en oeuvre cette Loi sur les services en français, adoptée à l'unanimité par l'Assemblée législative, le 18 novembre 1986.

Pour cette raison, au cours des prochaines années l'Office accordera une attention prioritaire aux communications: communications aux niveaux provincial et national et même, comme

on l'a déjà fait lors du Sommet de la francophonie, au niveau international.

J'aimerais maintenant dire quelques mots au sujet de la Commission des services en français de l'Ontario. La Commission amorce présentement la dernière année de son mandat d'une durée de trois ans. Créée lors de l'adoption de la Loi sur les services en français en novembre 1986, la Commission a pour fonction essentielle, comme je l'ai déjà indiqué, de conseiller le gouvernement et de l'aider dans la mise en place des services en français au sein des ministères, organismes, conseils et commissions.

En termes plus précis, le mandat de la Commission est le suivant: examiner la disponibilité et la qualité des services en français et faire des recommandations en vue de leur amélioration; recommander la désignation des organismes offrant des services publics et l'ajout de régions désignées à l'annexe de la Loi; recommander des modifications aux projets des organismes gouvernementaux en ce qui concerne la prestation des services en français; faire des recommandations en ce qui concerne les exemptions proposées de services en français.

Présidée par M. Gérard Raymond et composée de quatre membres à temps partiel, la Commission se réunit périodiquement, à raison de deux ou trois jours par mois, pour étudier diverses questions touchant l'application de la Loi sur les services en français.

Ces membres à temps partiel ont été nommés par décret et choisis à l'extérieur du gouvernement. Ils apportent à la Commission leurs propres connaissances et compétences dans le domaine des services en français. Le directeur général de l'Office des affaires francophones est membre d'office de la Commission. Le président et les membres sont appuyés de six employés.

Nous étions bouleversés d'apprendre, il y a quelques semaines, le décès d'un des membres de la Commission, M^e Jean-François Aubé, par suite d'un cancer du cerveau. Il était d'un dévouement, d'une sensibilité et d'un charme remarquables. Il manquera à tous ceux qui sont associés à la Commission.

Dans l'exécution de son mandat, la Commission s'intéresse particulièrement aux questions telles que l'offre active des services et leur spécificité par rapport à la situation particulière des francophones, tant au niveau culturel qu'au niveau régional, ainsi que leur équivalence en termes de qualité, permanence, accessibilité et disponibilité.

En ce qui concerne l'orientation générale de la Commission, elle a retenu quatre domaines

prioritaires: l'éducation, dans son sens le plus large; les services sociaux, communautaires et culturels; la santé; et les services juridiques. La Commission a identifié ces priorités en tenant compte des besoins pressants de la population francophone de l'Ontario.

Comme pour l'Office, un champ d'activité important de la Commission est l'étude des plans de mise en oeuvre de la Loi présentés par les ministères et leurs agences. La Commission a porté une attention particulière à la prestation et à l'accessibilité des services, à la coordination des programmes, à l'élaboration de politiques appropriées et à l'image de marque des organismes. Elle examine également la structure décisionnelle de ces derniers pour s'assurer qu'elle tient compte des besoins et préoccupations des Franco-Ontariens.

Au fur et à mesure que l'échéance de novembre 1989 approche, la Commission mettra davantage l'accent sur l'examen des plans révisés de la mise en oeuvre de la Loi et sur l'étude des divers services offerts par les ministères et organismes. À cet égard, la Commission poursuivra l'élaboration de directives visant à aider les ministères dans la mise en oeuvre de la Loi sur les services en français.

Elle s'est déjà prononcée sur la question de la signalisation à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur des édifices gouvernementaux et sur la question de l'utilisation du français dans le processus d'appel d'offres relatif aux contrats gouvernementaux, ainsi que dans la préparation d'expositions, de présentations et de matériel audio-visuel. La Commission a également contribué à l'élaboration de la ligne directrice sur les publications, mentionnée plus tôt.

Avec la participation de l'Office, la Commission examine également les services offerts par les ministères qui n'ont pas l'intention de désigner de postes pour la prestation de services en français. Cet examen permettra aux ministères de savoir si leurs plans en matière de dotation en personnel, aux fins de l'application de la Loi, sont adéquats et respectent bien les dispositions de la Loi.

En outre, la Commission a pris en considération les conclusions et les recommandations d'un certain nombre d'études qu'elle a entreprises au cours des derniers mois. Ces études ont examiné la qualité et l'accessibilité des services en français au sein de plusieurs ministères ou agences gouvernementales.

La première étude faite par la Commission porte sur le statut du français dans le système judiciaire dans certaines régions du Nord de

l'Ontario. Elle visait les services offerts en français dans les districts juridiques de Cochrane, Timiskaming et Nipissing et, en particulier, les cours criminelle, familiale et des petites créances.

L'automne dernier, la Commission a examiné les services en français qu'offre TVOntario à la population francophone de la province.

Pendant la même période, la Commission a entrepris une étude sur les services offerts en français par le ministère de la Formation professionnelle. L'étude portait sur les besoins et perceptions de la communauté francophone ainsi que sur la qualité et la quantité des services disponibles. Cette étude fut bien accueillie par le Ministère, et plusieurs de ses recommandations ont mené à des améliorations mesurables aux services.

Compte tenu de l'importance qu'accorde la Commission à l'éducation, elle a mené deux études complémentaires portant sur le Collège de technologie agricole et alimentaire d'Alfred. Ces études ont examiné les services offerts aux étudiants par le Collège ainsi que ceux qui sont offerts à la communauté franco-ontarienne. Elles ont également comparé les programmes disponibles en Ontario aux collèges agricoles de langue anglaise avec ceux qui sont offerts par le Collège d'Alfred.

De plus, la Commission vient de terminer une étude sur les services financés par le gouvernement mais administrés par certaines municipalités dans des régions désignées de la province. Cette étude portait sur des domaines importants à la population franco-ontarienne, notamment les services de santé publique, tels que l'aide à domicile et la planification familiale, et les services sociaux, y compris ceux qui sont offerts aux personnes âgées et à l'enfance et l'aide sociale en générale.

La Commission et l'Office poursuivent, par ailleurs, les discussions qu'ils ont entamées avec les ministères touchés par les conclusions de ces études dans le but d'apporter des améliorations durables aux services examinés.

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En collaboration avec l'Office, la Commission a parrainé une étude dressant le profil de la communauté franco-ontarienne. Cette étude portait sur les aspects socio-démographiques de la communauté franco-ontarienne et faisait une description de la vie familiale et communautaire des francophones en Ontario. En outre, la Commission mène actuellement une étude sur les besoins de services en français dans la communauté francophone de la région de Sudbury. Cette

étude tient compte, en particulier, de questions de la plus haute importance pour la population francophone, à savoir l'éducation postsecondaire, les services sociaux et communautaires, la santé et le système judiciaire.

Un élément connexe et intéressant de cette étude était la participation des francophones de la région, qui ont décidé de s'engager en créant leur propre groupe communautaire. En fait, la Commission est régulièrement en contact avec la population francophone de l'Ontario pour déterminer ses besoins et priorités en matière de services gouvernementaux en français. Des exposés ont été présentés et continueront à l'être, dans toute la province, aux associations locales et provinciales qui s'intéressent au fait français.

Parmi les groupes rencontrés, je peux noter le conseil provincial et exécutif de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario et le chapitre ontarien de l'association Canadian Parents for French. Ces conférences donnent l'occasion à la Commission d'expliquer aux divers représentants de la population les dispositions, les garanties et le processus de mise en oeuvre de la Loi sur les services en français et lui permettent de cerner leurs préoccupations dans plusieurs domaines.

Du côté plus administratif et bureaucratique, le président de la Commission et moi avons signé un protocole d'entente qui décrit les responsabilités et les rôles de la Commission et de l'Office des affaires francophones, ainsi que les miens, par rapport au Programme des services en français. Ce protocole fut approuvé par le Conseil de gestion.

L'importance de la dernière année du mandat de la Commission s'accroîtra au fur et à mesure que les ministères et les agences accéléreront le pas de la mise en oeuvre.

In the next few months, the commission will conduct a final review of ministry and agency implementation plans. This process should be completed early in the New Year in order for ministries to have sufficient time to act on the commission's recommendation for improvement where necessary. The commission will also be addressing the issue of exemptions under the act. In some rare and specific cases, it may not be possible to provide full service in French by the November 1989 deadline. In these cases, an exemption will be required as provided for in the act. However, exemptions will only be granted if they are deemed reasonable, necessary and do not derogate from the spirit and intent of the act.

In addition, and in accordance with its mandate, the commission will review the ques-

tion of the possible addition of designated areas to the schedule of the act. This review will take into consideration the distribution and concentration of Ontario's French-speaking population, as revised in the most recent population statistics compiled by the federal government. For the duration of the period remaining in its mandate, the commission will take a particular interest in the designation of public service agencies in co-operation with the office of francophone affairs and the ministries concerned.

À cette fin, la Commission a déjà établi un certain nombre de critères qui tiennent compte de la permanence et de la qualité des services en français; de l'accès adéquat à ces services; de la représentation efficace des francophones au sein des conseils d'administration, des comités et aux divers niveaux de direction de ces organismes; et de l'imputabilité pour les services en français. Ces critères servent à juger de l'acceptabilité des plans de désignation dans le but de formuler des recommandations.

Il convient de noter, toutefois, que la désignation des agences est un projet très complexe et de longue haleine qui ne s'achevera pas pendant le mandat de la Commission. Il est évident que c'est un processus qui continuera à évoluer pendant un nombre considérable d'années.

Bien que leurs mandats respectifs soient distincts et différents, l'Office des affaires francophones et la Commission des services en français de l'Ontario travaillent en étroite collaboration. Ensemble, ils nous aideront à mener à terme l'importante mission entreprise par notre gouvernement dans sa grande clairvoyance et qui vise à la préservation de la langue et de la culture de la population franco-ontarienne.

Monsieur le Président, ceci conclut mon rapport sur l'étude des crédits de 1987-1988.

Mlle Martel: Je voudrais dire deux choses pour commencer. Premièrement, je ne voudrais pas parler aussi longtemps que le Ministre. Il doit être bien fatigué, et moi, je ne veux pas parler aussi longtemps que lui.

Deuxièmement, je voudrais remercier les personnes qui font l'interprétation simultanée de mes propos. Je sais bien que je suis la seule personne qui aura besoin d'aide cet après-midi. Je les remercie bien, tous les deux.

C'est pour moi un plaisir de participer au débat cet après-midi. C'est aussi la première fois que je participe à l'étude des budgets de dépenses ici, à la Législature. Je voudrais dire d'abord deux choses qui me préoccupent, puis après, s'il me reste assez de temps, je voudrais faire de petits

commentaires à propos des détails dans ce cahier-ci.

Avant de commencer, je voudrais rappeler encore une fois le mandat de la Direction des politiques et de la recherche: c'est d'analyser et d'évaluer les lois, les politiques et les programmes gouvernementaux pour s'assurer qu'ils répondent aux besoins des francophones. À mon avis, il est important de se souvenir de cela, cet après-midi. C'est important en particulier si on considère la réponse de l'Office des affaires francophones au recensement et son effet sur le projet de loi 125.

I must say that the conflict concerning Bill 125 really started with Bill 77. In recent weeks, we all know what has gone on in terms of the enumeration, in terms of the court challenge and the result as of yesterday. I want to say, first of all, that having been occupied with Bill 162, I regret that I was not in as much of a position as I should have been to respond to what has happened in recent weeks since we have returned to this Legislature.

I must say that I do want to take a look at the history of that now and make some comments concerning what happened on the part of the government, what I think happened on the part of the minister responsible for francophone affairs (Mr. Grandmaître) and how we are certainly in a difficult predicament, even in spite of the decision reached by the Ontario Court of Appeal yesterday.

I am certain that the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) will comment upon this, but I certainly remember the debate that went on around Bill 77, which in fact introduced the enumeration system that was used for these municipal elections. I remember that at the time, we on this side of the House, in both opposition parties, expressed many concerns we had with that bill.

We, members of both parties on this side, spoke at length about the concerns we had. We tried to warn the government what was going to happen because the bill was so rushed and because we felt there would be an inadequate amount of time to sensitize, in particular the francophone population so it could respond adequately to the enumeration. We tried to warn the government that this bill should never have been brought in in a period where there was a municipal election.

Unfortunately, the government wanted the bill. They wanted it badly. They went on without any amendments, without any changes to the forms and we ended up with what I think is quite

a fiasco in the province at this time, in spite of the fact that the municipal elections will occur.

I want to go back to some of the concerns I raised, because I did speak in that debate, and reiterate them here today. The first one was the whole question of timing itself. We looked at the bill at the beginning of April. There were some strict time limits put into that bill that had to be met. The many problems included timing; that is, that by May 1, the enumeration, or at least the mailing of the forms and the return of those forms to the Ministry of Revenue, was supposed to occur.

1540

We were sitting on April 7 with this bill not having been passed, no amendments we could look at, no public hearings going to be promised, and yet we were supposed to have all this in place and those forms sent out within three weeks. I certainly remember my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) at the time going through this at great length in his speech. He was very concerned that the time limits could not be met, or if they were met, the effects, the consequences for the municipal elections were going to be dramatic.

There was a second problem I referred to in particular, and that was the question of a comprehensive publicity campaign around Bill 77 and around the enumeration itself. I remember that on the day the bill was introduced, the minister responsible for francophone affairs announced, in conjunction with the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), that there would be a great publicity campaign around the bill. They would be in contact not only with the francophone community, but also with many of the multicultural communities around the province to describe in detail the importance of filling out the form, what it meant, the importance for municipal elections. That was going to occur.

Also in terms of timing, we on this side of the House could not understand how that kind of campaign could occur within three weeks, because at that point in time there were three weeks between the time the bill was passed and the time the forms were supposed to start coming back to the Ministry of Revenue. We expressed some grave concerns there, and perhaps the minister, when he responds to my concerns, can give us in this House some idea of how much money was spent on that advertising campaign and who would have been involved in that.

There was a third concern that we raised. That was actually raised by l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens.

They had requested of the ministry in advance some detailed plans as to what the ministry was going to do in terms of its own publicity campaign, the reason being that the association itself wanted to run a parallel campaign in the francophone community across the province to try to reiterate and impress upon francophones the importance of responding, of identifying themselves as French electors in order to be able to elect French trustees during the municipal elections.

They were concerned at the time, because they had got no response from the government. The government was proceeding with the bill. The association had no idea what kind of campaign was going to be run. They wanted to play a role, but had had no response from the government about what they could do and what role they could play. Perhaps the minister can respond and let the House know what kind of role they did play, if there was any parallel campaign run in that regard.

Finally, I raised a particular concern with the form itself. I remember that the day I stood to speak on the bill was also the first day I had ever seen the form, and it was the first day most members who were speaking about the bill had actually seen the form. I raised the concern at that point that due to the nature of the questions, there would be a fairly significant number of Canadians who were not born in this country, whose first language was neither French nor English but who identified with the francophone community, who would not be able to identify themselves as French electors and elect French trustees.

There was a problem with the form. I remember the parliamentary assistant said it did not affect great numbers of people, but in any event it did affect a significant population in this province, people who should have had the right to identify themselves as francophone supporters.

The people I mentioned at the time were mainly from Arabic countries whose first language would have been neither French nor English. Because many of them had lived in countries that were former French colonies, certainly their second language would have been French. They would have come to Canada and associated themselves with the francophone community, yet they were disqualified from identifying themselves electorally, because of the questions and the way they were worded on the form.

I remember making that point and there was no response from the minister at that time. It was

evident that there could not be, because we had such a short time at that point. The forms were already printed. They could not be pulled. The changes could not be made. As a consequence, I think there were a fair number of people in that category who could not identify themselves as French electors and therefore French trustee supporters.

Several of my colleagues made some other comments. One was a concern with the mailout process. I know that many of us here do our mailing into our constituencies three times a year. It may have been my colleague the member for Oshawa—I am not clear at this point, but one of my colleagues did indeed say that he on occasion got hundreds of returns because there was a problem with mailout. His concern at that point was that if you took away the door-to-door portion of it and relied strictly on the mailout for the first round in, you would lose or miss a lot of people.

Second, a concern that was raised by all of us, which was the most important, was that we felt the whole thing was being rammed through in an election year, which never should have been done. We should have dealt with Bill 77 in November when the House resumed, and we did not. Instead, it was left until the final moment for a dramatic change in the enumeration system and indeed in the way French trustees were going to be elected, and yet it was done within several months of the municipal election.

We said quite categorically on this side that we wondered why the government was in such a rush at that point, in April, when the sensible thing would have been for it to address the issue fully in November 1987.

As I say, the debate went on. Many concerns were raised on this side of the House. We did not get many responses from the other side of the House, and in fact there were no amendments in the end. The form was not changed in the end. There were no hearings in the end. The government just continued to roll on and continued to proceed with the enumeration. We are in a tenuous position now as a consequence of the very rapid decisions that were made at that point in time.

I remember the minister telling my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) that the enumeration was very successful. He responded at that time that about 90 per cent of the population responded across the province. I suppose you can base the success that way, that 90 per cent responded, if indeed that was the end figure. But I have to ask the minister, what else

was happening in the province at the same time? He may have got 90 per cent of the respondents across Ontario, but in the francophone community of this province there were some real problems that went on and that have not yet been addressed.

There were huge numbers in the francophone community who did not respond, and the minister is aware of that. There were huge numbers that, for whatever reason, may not have received the form and then did not respond as a consequence. We had the problem of the exclusion of those new Canadians who did not speak English or French, who were excluded from the process because of the forms and the way they were written.

Finally, we had an exclusion of large numbers because if francophones did not identify themselves as francophone supporters, they were automatically identified as majority supporters. Had the situation been reversed and they were anglophones and had been automatically designated as francophone supporters, I think there would have been a hue and cry across this province as a consequence.

Certainly, the minister can base his success on the large percentage that responded, but the percentage that did not respond are the people who are most affected and who are going to lose the most in terms of what will happen over the trustee question, both during this municipal election and in the future when the Court of Appeal has to hear the case of the constitutionality of the enumeration process.

I was surprised then when the minister responded in the press, when he was asked about the large numbers of francophones who did not respond, "Il y a des francophones qui ne se sont pas donné la peine de répondre." I was a bit surprised by that, because there were large numbers who did not receive the forms in the first place. I go back to what Sylvio Morin said in *Le Droit*: "Comment le ministère peut-il dire que les francophones ne se sont pas donné la peine de répondre, alors que je n'ai moi-même jamais reçu de formulaire, et ce même après l'avoir demandé?"

In Ottawa-Carleton alone, there were some 68,400 francophones who identified themselves as francophone supporters. Statistics Canada estimates there are over 100,000 French-speaking people in the Ottawa-Carleton area. They are losing thousands of people in Ottawa-Carleton alone who were not identified, for whatever reason.

In Frontenac county, there were 1,500 francophones on the voters list, when in fact the francophone population in that area is nearly 5,000. There were some tremendous problems with the enumeration, and it is not just a case of people not taking the time to fill out the forms. There was something very wrong that went on with this system. We tried to warn the ministries involved at that time that they were going to have some serious problems because there was not enough time to sensitize, in particular, the francophone population on the need to respond and what it had to do to respond correctly.

1550

I think where the real tragedy has occurred as a consequence is the application of the enumeration system to the provisions of Bill 125, and there the effects of the badly flawed enumeration have really become evident, in particular in the last number of weeks.

Members of this House will know that under Bill 125 the number of trustees on school boards to be determined is now determined by the number of French voters and that is a change from what we have had in the past. The problem was that the identification of French electors in the province is so poor that the number of French trustees has in fact dropped dramatically in a manner that does not represent, in any factual way, the francophone population in many parts of Ontario, and that is a dramatic problem.

We have heard from many people about how this is going to affect their areas and different school boards in the province, but one of the consequences, according to l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario, is that more than 40 per cent of the 450 francophone trustees would have been dropped from school boards as a consequence of the enumeration and its application under Bill 125. Francophones in at least 12 school board districts may be under-represented due to flaws in the enumeration system. That is a fairly significant proportion of the population. It makes some dramatic changes.

In particular, in Sudbury, it reversed the majority altogether, and that happened in at least six school boards across the province. I know it happened in the school board district of my colleague in the Conservative Party. It happened in Nipissing as well, and in Algoma.

I think what we have seen in the last number of weeks over this whole problem, the court appeal, etc., is that it has been a real fiasco; and we warned the government. We tried to tell them this was going to happen, and the consequences

in the francophone community have really been drastic.

We know that last week in his ruling, Judge Sirois condemned the enumeration process and he condemned it in very strong terms, which the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) certainly did not state in this House. I would just like to go over what he concluded in the appeal. He said of the enumeration system:

"It would result in an injustice if substantial errors in the enumeration of the voters were not corrected. The unreliability of the list will result in irreparable harm to be suffered by several thousands of section 23 right holders, firstly in their right to vote, and also their right to vote for the proper number of members or trustees to represent them. My conclusion is that this amounts to a clear denial of constitutional rights and it is inconsistent with the provisions of section 23 of the charter."

I think that is fairly strong language. That is much stronger than the Attorney General admitted to in this House, that is for sure.

We know that as a consequence, the government went on. They have appealed this ruling to the Court of Appeal in Ontario and a decision was rendered yesterday.

Two things came of that decision that I think are noteworthy to mention in the House. First is that the Court of Appeal has agreed that the constitutional challenge is serious enough to warrant a full trial in the future, and second, the elections will proceed under Bill 125, not as Judge Sirois wanted to do under the old rules before Bill 125, and also six boards, in particular the boards I have mentioned, will have a double-majority system.

I must say that the government and in particular the minister must have been quite pleased with the decision yesterday. It certainly got them out of a very hot and rather unpleasant situation. We could well have had the elections nullified, and certainly none of us in this House would have wanted to see that, but I go back to the point that a number of us tried to tell the government there would be a problem with this. It is too bad the government did not listen, but insisted on forcing this bill through and so we are running into the problems that we have now.

It is going to be interesting to see what indeed happens when the constitutional challenge begins, because we certainly could be in the position in future that we will have to have new elections in at least six districts in the province where now we are going to have a double voting system as a result of the decision rendered

yesterday. That is certainly going to be a waste of taxpayers' money and time, and I wish the government had seriously considered what we had to say when this bill was going through, in fact when both bills were going through.

I do want to say to the minister, because of course Bill 77 was a result of co-ordination of his ministry with the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Education, that there are some consequences of the government's decision to appeal. I think there are some dramatic consequences in terms of the effect that will have on the francophone community. When he said, "La décision a été prise par le Conseil des ministres, et vous savez que la solidarité ministérielle s'applique," ce n'est pas aussi simple que tout cela.

I think he should have been, at the time these bills were going through, pressing for the government to back off and take a serious look at what was going to happen, take a serious look at what was going to happen in the francophone community in particular, as he is the minister responsible. He should have tried to convince his colleagues at the time that the period during the municipal election or several months before the municipal election was not the time to try and bring in these bills which were going to change the system this dramatically.

I go back to a comment my colleague made when he talked about this. He said it was a long, sorry tale about the registration of French voters and securing of adequate representation for the French community. I think he was right. It is a long and sorry, sad tale and the worst part is that it is not over. When we go into the appeal and we see what happens concerning the question of the constitutionality of the enumeration system, we are going to have to go through all this again, grind up all the old feelings about it. I certainly wish the minister in particular would have been at the forefront of convincing the government not to proceed when these bills did go through last April.

Ma deuxième préoccupation, c'est à propos de la Loi 8. Je voudrais dire tout de suite que je suis complètement d'accord avec la Loi 8, cela ne fait aucun doute. J'ai dit la même chose pendant la campagne électorale à Sudbury-Est. Mes électeurs connaissent très bien ma position à ce propos, et ma position n'a pas changé depuis sept ans.

Mais je reste encore vraiment préoccupée par la mise en oeuvre de ce projet et je dois dire honnêtement que j'espère que le Ministre va écouter mes inquiétudes et y répondre, et aussi celles de mon collègue, car je suis sûre que

celui-ci va parler des mêmes sortes de problèmes.

À mon avis, la majorité des citoyens ontariens ne connaissent pas du tout la substance de la Loi 8. Par exemple, ils ne savent pas quelles sont les régions désignées de l'Ontario, ils ne savent pas que les municipalités sont exclues des stipulations de la Loi; et je suis convaincue qu'il n'y a pas assez de renseignements disponibles à propos de la Loi, ni pour les francophones ni pour les anglophones de l'Ontario.

Je suis convaincue aussi que la désinformation, ou le manque d'information, est au fond des inquiétudes, des craintes de la population à propos des services offerts aux francophones. Peut-être que les ministères peuvent dire que tout va bien, on continue et il y a seulement de petits problèmes à propos de la Loi. Ils peuvent dire, par exemple, que l'Office s'occupe de cette question. Il y a des gens qui veulent parler des problèmes concernant la Loi, etc., avec n'importe qui. Ils peuvent dire, par exemple, qu'on continue conformément à l'horaire et qu'il ne faut pas s'en inquiéter.

Mais moi, je m'en inquiète. Je m'en inquiète parce que, à mon avis, la mise en oeuvre des services ne sera pas terminée le 18 novembre 1989. Ainsi, le gouvernement devra en expliquer le pourquoi aux francophones.

I want to give an example of that. I will use the Sudbury case in particular, because I was at the meeting which the francophone group in Sudbury had concerning the results of the study it had been doing in the city in terms of a study of the justice system, health, social services, and what the services in fact were which were available in the community. I remember meeting with them just before the meeting took place and they said to me that as a consequence of the work they had done, the meetings they had had, the research they had done in the various areas, they were convinced that there was absolutely no way the government could have the services necessary in place by November 1989.

They were very adamant on that point, that there remained a great deal of research which had to be done. They were worried about the great amount of confusion, particularly in the government ministries in Sudbury, as to what was happening, what was required of them, how many positions would be designated, whether French-language services would be offered to the present employees so they would be able to move up in their employment.

They were quite worried about that. The confusion in the government ministries alone was evident enough for them to state that there was no way the government of this province could have everything in place by the deadline of November 1989. That worries me.

It worries me that not only will the government have a problem in explaining to francophones why the services are not in place by November 1989, but on the other hand, I really feel the government continues to be very vague about what is happening under Bill 8, about the implementation plans of the various ministries and how that is coming together.

There has not been anywhere near enough information given to members of this House and to the public in general about what is happening, and I am extremely worried that the lack of information and the apparent secrecy that has come with that lack of information is causing grave concerns in Ontario. People do not understand what is happening with this bill. They do not understand the provisions of it. They do not know what is required. They have no idea of the numbers which will be designated and if they are going to lose their jobs as a consequence. It is a real fear out there and it is not going away.

I am asking the minister to try to understand what I am saying. I am not here to state that I am in disagreement with the bill or to try to use scare tactics. I am merely trying to point out to him that it has become very evident to me in the last year during which I have been a member that people are extremely concerned about this bill. They do not understand it. They are fearful about it. They are fearful about the cost. They are fearful about what it means for their jobs.

There has not been any effort on the part of this minister, as far as I can see, to try to relieve some of that fear, to try to get information out to the municipalities and to the public in general to let them know exactly what we are looking at.

I want to give him a couple of examples, so he understands where I am coming from and why I am telling him this at this point in time.

I go back to a problem he is aware of which happened in Sudbury concerning the designation of particular francophone positions in several liquor stores in Sudbury. Both myself and the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) were involved in this and were grateful that the ministry responded and did set up meetings and tried to resolve the situation.

I go back to the real problem. The co-ordinator of French services in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations was trying to work

with the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario to determine the number of stores across the province which were going to have designated bilingual positions in order to meet the requirements under Bill 8.

She was having great difficulty doing that. I certainly do not want to get her into any trouble with her Deputy Minister or indeed with the ministry here, but as she explained to me quite clearly, and this was in June, there were no guidelines in place. There was no uniform policy she could see in her dealings with other co-ordinators in other ministries which each of them were to be guided by. She had no idea, in effect, what kind of percentages should be applied in different areas in designating francophone jobs. There was no set pattern. Most of us assumed it would be based on the proportion of the francophone population in that area. She could not answer that question.

She said to me quite clearly: "There are no directives. The policy directives we get change quite dramatically. There's a great deal of confusion. We don't know where we're heading. We're certainly worried about it, but I don't know what else I can tell you."

That bothered me a great deal because this is an individual who is trying extremely hard to implement the government's policy under Bill 8 but is not getting any direction as to how that should be done; has no sense of really what is required in terms of numbers under this bill; cannot tell me if there is going to be French-language training provided so current employees do not have to lose their jobs; and cannot tell me, in fact, where we are heading.

I am concerned, because that is only one example we have had and that is only one ministry. From what I could gather from her in our conversations, it was widespread in all the ministries and everyone was feeling under siege and everyone was concerned by what appeared to be a definite lack of direction.

Let me go into the public at large and say that last week I received a phone call from a municipality in Algoma, my colleague's riding. The municipality was calling because of Bill 8. They were not sure (a) if the bill had been passed, they had some questions about that, and (b) they wanted to know what the bill entailed and they wanted to know, as a municipality, what they were expected to do in order to provide French-language services.

They did not know that, as a municipality, they were not in any position to have to actually provide services, even though they were in a

designated area. They did not know that, as a municipality, they could vote in that municipality and decide if they wanted to offer services in both French and English.

They were extremely confused. They had never received any information from the government about the bill. They had no idea what their obligations were, and they were quite surprised to find out that in fact the bill had been passed even in 1986.

I say there is not information out there; people do not know what is happening.

I received a call a couple of weeks ago from an individual who is very concerned with the hiring policy going on at Cambrian College. As he went through his statement to me that it was all because of Bill 8 that Cambrian College has this bilingual hiring policy now and Bill 8 was terrible and how could we allow that to happen, I had to stop him and say: "Hold on. The college is not designated under the bill."

Colleges are not at this point designated under the bill. There is no provision in place to allow the college even to be designated at this point. There has been nothing established to do that.

In fact, Cambrian College designated itself bilingual in 1975, so it is up to the board of directors and the college to sort out the hiring policy that is in place, but it certainly is not a consequence of Bill 8.

The fourth example I would like to use goes back to the Sudbury situation. It goes back to the work the francophone community was doing there in terms of trying to find out what services were even in place at this point, on the part of the ministries in Sudbury and some of the government agencies there.

They related to me a story that when they were looking at the justice field in particular, they made arrangements to talk to some officials from the Ministry of Correctional Services. They went over to the ministry, made arrangements to meet with someone and discovered when they arrived that the ministry had actually brought someone in from Toronto to speak to them about services in the Sudbury office, that they had no one in the Sudbury office who could talk to them about Bill 8 because no one in the Sudbury office knew what was going on. Someone from Toronto was forced to come in to deal with them when the local ministry that is there permanently could not respond to those concerns.

I think there is something very wrong. There is something very wrong when ministry staff across the province, albeit they are not in Toronto, do not know what is happening, do not know what is

required of them, do not know how many positions are going to be designated bilingual, do not know if French services are going to be offered to their own employees, or if French-language training is going to be offered; there is something very wrong.

How can the minister expect the public to know what is happening, and how can he expect the public to accept what is happening if people do not understand, if they have no sense of what is entailed?

What is happening is that we have more and more concerns being relayed, to my office in particular, about people who really want to know what is going on and why, and why there has been no information around this bill.

I guess I have to go back. Not only do ministry staff and members of the general public not know what is going on, but I also do not think very many members in this House even have a sense of what is happening under this bill. I think that is unfortunate. I know I speak for myself, and perhaps it is because I have not done enough work on it, I will admit to that, but I certainly do not think we have been given any sense or any direction of where the government and the people who are out there trying to sell it are heading on this.

I just want to go through three areas which point out some of the concerns that I, as a member, have when I do not have access to any of this type of information and yet I am trying to say it is a good thing and it is something that should be done in the province.

1610

Let me just go back to the mandate of the Ontario French Language Services Commission; it is listed in our estimates book. I want to read to the members what it states here as part of their mandate: "recommend changes in the plans of government agencies for the provision of French-language services and make the plans and recommendations public" as well as make recommendations concerning proposed exemptions of French-language services and make these recommendations public.

I am not sure if that is supposed to happen now or after 1989, or when we will be advised and when the public will be advised as to what is happening here, but I certainly know that I have not had any information forthcoming to my office on any of those concerns in any of those areas.

Let me go back to what Gérard Raymond said to the press in July 1988. This is also from the Ontario French Language Services Commission.

Il dit qu'il reste un tas de choses à faire, mais il pense que les ministères doivent adopter leurs plans. «Il y a eu un plan d'implantation pour la première année, dit-il. On y apportera des modifications au cours de la deuxième année.»

I am assuming he is referring to the implementation plans that were submitted by all of the ministries and have been studied in terms of what numbers are going to be used and how we can ensure that all the ministries are providing adequate services.

I can understand that it is ministry documentation and that as members we probably should not have any type of access to it, but I want to say to the minister that when designations of positions are already occurring—and they are, because we have seen it in Sudbury; we have had positions in the Liquor Control Board of Ontario designated as a consequence of Bill 8—then we as members have got to have some access to those plans to find out what the grand scheme is, to find out what kinds of numbers are going to be designated, to find out if French training is going to be provided to government employees. We should be able to find that out now, because the designations are happening now.

It is a little difficult for us to respond to constituents about the numbers that are going to be used, the numbers of positions that are going to be designated, when we have no idea. The government is formulating its plans among the various ministries, revising them, reviewing them and at the same time implementing changes that we know nothing about; we do not know the reasoning behind them, we have no idea what decisions have been made and where, or what other positions will be designated and how many.

I must say to the minister that it is fine if he is going to review, and after the bill comes into effect in 1989, then make the changes. I can appreciate that. I would say, "Then I will see the plans, look at the details and review things." But when the changes are happening now, the members of this House have a right to know what is coming down, because we cannot respond to our constituents. We have no information on what is being designated.

I think the minister has to look seriously at what is happening in that regard. Even though those documents may be confidential, or there may be review work going on in them, we certainly should have some draft copies, so we have some idea of what is being suggested and what is going to happen and indeed to know what is happening at present.

Those are two examples of what members of this House are dealing with. I go back to the minister and say I am extremely concerned because (a) I do not think that people in the ministry, any of the staff, know what is going on to a large extent, (b) the public certainly does not and (c) members of this House, except for the minister himself and his parliamentary assistant, really do not have any sense of that. I do not know how, as members, we deal with the concerns that are out there when we have no information ourselves as to what is happening.

I want to leave the minister with this thought. The process since I came here in November 1987 has appeared barely more than secretive in nature; it really has. I am worried about that, because if I get that impression as a member of this House, then certainly the public must have that impression even more.

Secondly, there has not been any information to municipalities that I am aware of. The one time I am aware that the ministry responded quite quickly to requests for information from municipalities involved North Bay. The ministry responded quickly because at that time the Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada was coming to talk to them about a vote for English only. There was a quick reaction to that; information went into that municipality and in the end that resolution was defeated.

But certainly the municipalities in this province have every right to know what the bill contains, what their responsibilities may be in future. They have to know that information so they can respond to groups which are coming before them on this bill. I go back to the fact that I do not think there has been very much information to government employees or to the public at large.

I must say to the minister, in concluding at least this portion of my remarks, that I do not think the problem is going to go away. As we come closer and closer to November 18, 1989, when this bill is going to go into effect, the problem is not going to go away. It is becoming larger in many cases. The concerns and fears around this bill remain. They are not going away as we come any closer to the date when this is to be implemented.

I do not think we can continue much longer without providing some meaningful and adequate information to the public to try to undercut some of that, to stem some of those fears and to say to people: "We understand you have concerns, but here is the information. This is what we are doing. This is where we are heading."

That is the only way we are going to undercut some of the problems I see happening in the province now.

I want to reiterate that I am completely in accord with Bill 8 and its provisions and its principles. That is not why I am raising my concerns today, but as someone who must carry that and agree with that and try to sell that, I certainly would be much happier knowing that all kinds of information and publicity were going on so that people have the right information in their hands and can make judgements based on the proper and correct information about this bill.

Those are some of the concerns I had in terms of the office in general. Before dealing with some of the particular concerns I have in terms of the estimates themselves, I am going to allow my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry to get his concerns on the record and then we can start through the rotation.

M. Villeneuve: Il me fait plaisir de participer au débat sur les prévisions budgétaires du Programme des affaires francophones ici, cet après-midi.

Premièrement, Monsieur le Président, laissez-moi féliciter M^e Gérard Bertrand, qui n'est plus à la Commission mais qui a fait un travail exceptionnel quand il était à la Commission des services en français. Je veux féliciter aussi le nouveau président, M. Gérard Raymond. Avec son expérience dans la fonction publique, je sais que la Commission des services en français est en bonnes mains.

Je veux aussi exprimer, comme l'a fait mon collègue le député de Cochrane-Sud (M. Pope), nos sincères condoléances à la famille de M^e Jean-François Aubé, qui est décédé tout récemment. C'était quelqu'un qui, lui aussi, avait oeuvré longuement et durement pour la cause des francophones. Je demanderais au Ministre de nous dire quand le poste de M. Aubé pourrait être pourvu. Est-ce que ça va se faire prochainement? Est-ce qu'on peut s'attendre à quelqu'un du Nord, à quelqu'un de l'Est, ou a-t-il quelqu'un en vue pour pourvoir le poste laissé vacant par feu M^e Jean-François Aubé?

Je veux aussi féliciter les quatre autres membres de la Commission: Marc-Yvan Giroux, Marie-P. Poulin, Pat Webster et M^e Rémy Beauregard.

Certes, nous n'avons jamais estimé que le projet de loi 8 serait facile à mettre en oeuvre. Nous avons, comme l'a expliqué ma collègue la députée de Sudbury-Est (Mlle Martel), plusieurs questions qui demandent des réponses. Nous avons plusieurs municipalités dans l'Est ontarien

qui se sont déclarées, pour une raison ou pour une autre, unilingues; ou qui auront un référendum lors des élections municipales prochaines, situation qui n'aurait pas dû exister tout simplement, car la vaste majorité de ces municipalités sont déjà dans des régions non désignées, des régions où les nombres de francophones ne sont pas suffisants pour avoir des services en français.

1620

Nous avons quelques municipalités, oui, qui sont dans des régions désignées bilingues et qui auront un référendum, et ça devient une façon, peut-être, de sonder la population. Par contre, dans les régions qui ne sont pas désignées, il semble un peu bizarre que ces municipalités, pour leurs raisons – des raisons qui proviennent, peut-être, d'un manque de communication de la part de l'Office et de la Commission – veuillent organiser un référendum.

Tout simplement pour toucher un petit peu à la situation du projet de loi 125, j'en ai déjà parlé et ma collègue en a parlé avant moi. C'est une situation dont M^e Jean-Charles Sirois a dit que les droits de nos francophones avaient bel et bien été violés. Par contre, nous n'avons pas pu convaincre le gouvernement, lors du débat aux mois d'avril et mai derniers, qu'une situation presque unique était en train de se produire, une situation très difficile où nos francophones, en remplissant les formules d'énumération, se déclarent bilingues ou se posent des questions et, sans trop de bonnes indications, se voient finalement déclarés anglophones, pour une raison ou pour une autre.

I want to touch on Bill 125, and I realize it is not this minister's responsibility as the minister in charge of francophone rights. However, it certainly touches him as one who is and has declared himself the champion of the francophone community in Ontario.

The court imposed a double-majority system on six Roman Catholic school boards where Bill 125 reduced a francophone trustee majority to a minority. I represent one of those areas. Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry happens to be one of those six areas in the province where I know it will be most difficult, barring great co-operation, and I know there is and has been great co-operation. However, there will have to be even more so now under the double-majority system that was imposed by the courts to try, not to rectify but simply smooth over a situation that was created by Bill 125, a situation which must be corrected. I am not sure just how this government will proceed to do that.

Du côté de la francophonie, et de l'Office et de la Commission des services en français, la mise

en oeuvre pose de nombreux problèmes. Quand M^e Bertrand a démissionné de son poste, nous avons posé certaines questions au Ministre et nous avons eu très peu de réponses. Tout récemment, j'ai eu l'occasion de discuter personnellement avec M^e Bertrand de sa démission du poste de président de la Commission des services en français, et nous nous posons toujours la question: qu'est-ce qui s'est produit, exactement? À peu près à mi-chemin de la mise en oeuvre du projet de loi 8, notre président démissionne et s'en va ailleurs.

Nous avons de nombreuses régions désignées. Le problème survient dans des régions comme celle que je représente: Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry et Grenville-Est.

It is a situation where lack of communication has left a great deal to be desired, particularly in those areas that are adjacent to designated areas. I will cite a few examples, as my colleague previously did in northern Ontario. We certainly have them in eastern Ontario. It has created a polarization of certain areas and communities; polarization that is rather sad to see, because we have lived together side by side, worked together, played together, and all of a sudden we have people who are posing questions which remain unanswered. For example, in a hospital situated in a nondesignated area but servicing a designated bilingual area, what happens? Who will be hired, how many bilingual staff do we need?

Ontario Hydro represents much the same situation wherever an Ontario Hydro office is situated, be it in a designated area or immediately adjacent in a nondesignated area. How many bilingual employees will they need, how will the new hiring procedures occur when we relate to linguistic skills, how much weight will linguistic skills be given in relation to the actual hands-on work to be done, how will these choices occur and who will be making these choices?

Does it go as far as Meals on Wheels, for example, people volunteering their time? We have had many discussions, as the minister well knows. Many statements have been made by people for their own particular and personal reasons. They are very difficult to answer, because as my colleague has alluded, the process of implementation of the French Language Services Act has been done very quietly and this Legislature has not been kept informed.

Will there be programs where employees of crown corporations have the opportunity to improve their linguistic skills? In the hiring process, are we going to look at straight and

singular bilingualism or are we going to look at the so-called cultural sensitivity? That is a difficult one to answer. We have been told—and I cannot refute, agree or disagree—that in some of these jobs that are designated bilingual you have to be French because if you are not, you are considered to be nonsensitive to the culture. It is a difficult one to get a handle on. We need guidance.

Yes, Bill 8 passed unanimously in this Legislature and I certainly agree with the principle. But we have too many unanswered questions, we have too many questions that, by not being answered, have created a great deal of animosity between our two basic founding linguistic groups. It need not happen.

Une autre question que j'aurais, et puis on ira un peu plus à fond, est de savoir où en est rendue la mise en oeuvre de la traduction des projets de loi, traduction qui est en plein essor, comme on le dit en ce moment. Quel est le coût de la traduction? Est-ce que cette traduction est faite par des gens qui travaillent sous contrat ou par des employés de la fonction publique?

Pour ce qui est de la façon dont les différents ministères procèdent à la mise en oeuvre de la Loi sur les services en français, est-ce que c'est ce ministre-là qui en est responsable, ou est-ce que nous allons avoir de petits départements dans différents ministères qui seront chargés de la mise en oeuvre du projet de Loi 8 dans ces ministères? Si la Commission est en train de le faire, nous aimerions en savoir plus long là-dessus. De quelle façon est-ce que le tout est en train de se produire?

I look forward to participating in this exercise. I will certainly be posing additional questions as time goes on this afternoon and I welcome the opportunity of having some answers. Our party and I personally endorse very strongly the implementation of Bill 8 going to a standing committee of the Legislature for input from all parties and concerned citizens. We do have many concerned citizens out in the province. In particular, I emphasize that most of these concerns are in the areas adjacent to designated areas. Many people do not know what is happening.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie pour l'occasion d'exprimer quelques pensées et je vais certainement participer activement au débat pendant la durée de cet après-midi. Merci infiniment.

1630

M. le Président: Monsieur le Ministre, voulez-vous répondre?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je crois que les deux présentations, celle de ma collègue la députée de Sudbury-Est et celle de mon collègue le député de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry (M. Villeneuve), se ressemblent beaucoup. Peut-être que je pourrais tenter de répondre aux questions et tenter de les satisfaire. On a parlé de la Loi 125, on a parlé de l'énumération, on a parlé des postes désignés, on a parlé du budget publicitaire et de toutes ces choses-là. Alors je vais tenter très rapidement de répondre à toutes leurs questions.

Lorsque la Loi a été acceptée, et je répète les mots que mes deux critiques ont employés d'une façon unanime, le projet de loi était pourtant très clair à ce moment-là. Vu la complexité de la Loi, on nous demandait de donner trois ans afin de nous permettre de mettre la Loi en vigueur.

Strangely enough, the Tories of the day wanted two years, not three years, to implement Bill 8. They thought it was too long. They wanted to amend the law to say that in two years everything had to be in place.

We tried to explain it to the Conservatives of those days. My friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry was a member of that party at the time. We made them realize that we did not have the institutions, we did not have the services and we lacked the French personnel in all of our ministries. Would you believe that in 90 per cent of our ministries, when we took over this government, no francophones were present? I wonder why.

I am pleased to say today that after two years—it will be two years very shortly—since Bill 8, every ministry has francophone, French-speaking or bilingual personnel. That is quite an achievement. Having said this, we still have a long way to go. I agree with the member for Sudbury East. It is a start. But we do have to start somewhere.

At least give us the three years permitted by Bill 8 to put these services in place. Then if members want to criticize the services, the quality or the number of services, I will welcome assisting them. I will be the first one to criticize or remind my ministerial colleagues about having these services in place.

I think the Commission des services en français de l'Ontario and l'Office des affaires francophones are doing the very best they can. I want to congratulate them. I think they have done a tremendous job in the last two years. All plans are in place and are being evaluated and improved every day. Let's face it, I know we are an open government and I think we are a great

government, but we cannot do everything in two years. It is impossible.

The opposition can criticize us for not doing enough, but give us another year and we will have Bill 8 in place and most agencies—I say agencies; never mind ministries because I am quite certain ministers and their staff or their assistant deputy ministers are working very hard on their plans, and they will be in place. I am very satisfied at the progress of this government. Imagine what we can do with another two or five years.

Very briefly, I want to talk about Bill 125, because both of my critics addressed Bill 125 and enumeration. As members know, we have just received the judgement from the court about enumeration and Bill 125.

Mr. Villeneuve: If you liked the judgement, you will appeal it.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: No, that is totally wrong. The member had better get his facts straight.

Mr. Villeneuve: You're appealing it.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I am very pleased some leeway was given to the two opposing parties. I know the Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario and the Ministry of Education are determined to find a solution very shortly and I am sure they will find a solution. I was talking to both sides yesterday and they confirmed to me their willingness to meet again. I know time is very short. The member for Sudbury East was saying Bill 125 was shoved down their throats on the very last day. This is something that maybe the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) can better address. I am sure he will be delighted to talk about Bill 125 and its implementation.

They were also asking where the minister responsible for francophone affairs was on Bill 125. I want to remind the members that instead of using the newspapers, I was using caucus and cabinet to deliver my message. Members can be assured what the message was. That is for them to think about.

On a parlé des municipalités et du manque d'information. Je n'en croyais pas mes oreilles lorsqu'on a parlé de la municipalité d'Algoma en disant que ces gens-là, deux ans après, ne savaient pas que la Loi 8 existe.

Lorsque j'étais ministre des Affaires municipales, j'ai écrit à 839 municipalités, leur expliquant la Loi 8 et ce qui touchait les municipalités. L'Association des municipalités, qui représente 617 municipalités qui se rassemblent une fois par an, a considéré, s'est arrêtée à la Loi 8 et l'a

expliquée à au moins 617 municipalités. L'actuel ministre des Affaires municipales (M. Eakins) a lui-même écrit aux municipalités, leur rappelant que la Loi sur les municipalités permettait aux municipalités d'offrir des services à leur gré.

Je crois que la Loi 8 est très claire lorsqu'on dit aux municipalités: oui, vous pouvez offrir des services, c'est à votre gré. Je peux nommer certaines municipalités qui ont des règlements, aujourd'hui, leur permettant d'offrir des services en français.

When I hear that a mayor from a municipality—I am not going to repeat the area, because I think it is a shame. I am not going to blame the federal government or the post office, but I am surprised that after the two years this bill has been in place, that municipality did not know Bill 8 existed. I am very surprised.

She also talked about Cambrian College. I would like to remind my honourable friend that Cambrian College is an agency. As she knows, agencies will be looked into, and those agencies that would like to be designated, if they are not designated, will have to deal through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and not through the commission. That is the way it is done; that is how designation is done.

1640

It is very difficult for me to stand in this House and tell the member what is going on between the ministries and the commission or the Office of Francophone Affairs when they are negotiating the possibility of being designated. They have a board of governors and I am sure these people are very responsible. I do not know if the member wanted to let me know that the governors of that college were not responsible, but I think they are and I hope the office will hear from them very shortly.

Mon collègue le député de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry me rappelle encore une fois que certaines municipalités se sont déclarées unilingues. Alors pour mon plaisir personnel et le plaisir de la Chambre, je veux rappeler à mon collègue de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry qu'environ 40 municipalités avaient signalé, au début, la possibilité, ou avaient voté une résolution à leur conseil municipal stipulant qu'elles devaient organiser un référendum, un plébiscite lors des prochaines élections municipales.

Par contre, 50 pour cent de ces 40 municipalités ont refusé. Alors je pose la question à mon collègue: pourquoi ont-elles refusé? Laissez-moi vous dire, Monsieur le Président, que ces municipalités, les municipalités qui ne comprenaient pas la Loi, ont été influencées par certains

groupes qui méprisaient la Loi 8, qui ne comprenaient pas la Loi 8, qui disaient qu'on l'avait mal employée.

Pour ce qui est des communications qui manquaient, comme mes critiques l'ont mentionné, c'est par l'entremise de ces communications, de cette publicité, au-delà de 300 000 \$ en publicité... Ils me critiquaient tantôt. J'apprécie le fait qu'ils me critiquent, et puis peut-être que 300 000 \$, ce n'est pas tout à fait assez. J'espère qu'ils vont convaincre mes amis au Conseil des ministres de m'en donner encore plus que ça. Peut-être qu'avec 600 000 \$ je ferais encore un meilleur travail.

Je dois assurer les députés que la Commission et l'Office des affaires francophones font un très bon travail avec le peu d'argent qui nous est alloué. Sans doute qu'on parlera tantôt des chiffres, et je suis sûr qu'ils seront émerveillés de voir ce que la Commission et ce que l'Office des affaires francophones font avec si peu de dollars. J'aimerais que mes collègues m'appuient, qu'ils écrivent au Premier Ministre (M. Peterson), qu'ils écrivent au Conseil des ministres pour les encourager à me donner plus d'argent. J'en ai besoin.

Tantôt, mon collègue de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry parlait d'Hydro. Comme mon collègue le sait, Hydro a un plan de mise en oeuvre, et je dois dire que le plan de mise en oeuvre d'Hydro est un bon plan. Ce n'est pas la fin du monde, mais par contre, imaginons: Hydro a un plan de mise en oeuvre. C'est quelque chose qui, il y a cinq ans, n'existait pas, et aujourd'hui on aura les outils nécessaires pour permettre aux gens bilingues, aux francophones aussi bien qu'aux anglophones, de se prévaloir de ces postes désignés.

I would like to spend about three minutes on our advertising budget or publicity budget, whatever you want to call it. I think we have gone a long way with very few dollars. I think every co-ordinator in each ministry is doing this kind of publicity, free publicity. We have produced a video and managers, deputy ministers and even staff—public servants—have seen this video explaining what Bill 8 is all about and how it pertains to their particular jobs, assuring them that nobody will lose his job because of Bill 8.

This year, we will be using the Topical newspaper, if I can call it a newspaper, or tabloid. A series of articles will appear in Topical and Zoom. I mentioned in my opening remarks this great flyer, if one wants to call it that, un cahier spécial; 130,000 copies were delivered right across this province. I wish I had more

money and maybe I could have sent out 500,000, but we are doing a lot with very few dollars.

Je dois rappeler à mes collègues... et je dois les remercier en même temps; je comprends leur anxiété. Ils veulent m'aider, je le crois sincèrement; même si je les appelle mes critiques, ils veulent m'aider. C'est un projet de loi très complexe qui touche tous les ministères, toutes les agences du gouvernement, et j'ai besoin de leur appui tous les jours. On fait face à des problèmes; par contre, je suis très encouragé par les résultats de tous les jours.

Présentement, le Gouvernement et les francophones font face à un problème très aigu avec la Loi 125, avec l'énumération; je le comprends. Laissez-moi vous assurer, Monsieur le Président, que ma responsabilité en tant que ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones fait que je vais continuer à défendre les intérêts des francophones.

My colleague the member for Sudbury East alluded to a problem that existed in one of the liquor stores in Sudbury. I can tell the members that the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario has a program in place. It is a complex program because none of these agencies and none of these ministries were ever asked to provide French services.

I have to tip my hat to these ministers, deputy ministers and managers of these agencies because this is a brand-new program for them. I must congratulate them because they had to start from scratch and they are doing a great job. I want to congratulate them.

Crédit/vote 402:

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je pourrais continuer, et je suis sûr que mes collègues voudraient passer à mon budget, à mes dépenses budgétaires. Alors tout en répondant aux questions budgétaires, peut-être que je pourrais continuer à leur répondre, d'une façon encore plus précise, au sujet de ce qui se passe à l'Office des affaires francophones et à la Commission.

Mon collègue de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry me posait une question au sujet du remplaçant de Jean-François Aubé. Je veux assurer mes deux collègues que Jean-François Aubé sera remplacé dans un avenir très rapproché. Nous avons pressenti des gens très qualifiés. Maintenant, il s'agit d'accepter ces gens par décret.

Quant à la traduction des lois, la seule chose que je puisse répondre à mon collègue de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry, c'est qu'elle est la responsabilité du Procureur général (M. Scott) et que le tout est à point. Par contre, je suis sûr

que le député pourrait obtenir de meilleures explications en les demandant auprès du Procureur général.

M. le Président: Est-ce que d'autres députés voudraient faire des commentaires? La députée de Sudbury-Est.

Mlle Martel: Je voudrais faire quelques réponses au ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones.

We are very much aware, on this side of the House, that what the government has undertaken is extremely complex. It has never been done before. I was not here for the debate about whether it should be two years or three years, so I do not want to go back into that and either apologize or support one side or the other. But I want to say that the problem is this: The minister has said that the plans are in place, they are being evaluated, they are being approved, they are being reviewed. I could live with that if I knew that outside of that there was not either hiring or designations of positions going on before members of this House had a chance to review and understand what was happening.

1650

The problem we are getting into, and I go back to the situation in Sudbury with the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, is that in fact some ministries are moving, they are designating positions and they are trying to implement the provisions of Bill 8, yet members of this House do not have any idea of what is happening or why or what positions are going to be designated.

I understand it is a long process. I would not care if we had three years to review before action was taken, but the problem is that action is being taken and we, as members, are in no position to respond to the concerns of our constituents because we do not have any of the information as to what is going on in the various ministries, what the implementation plans contain, what positions are going to be designated, if French services are going to be offered to employees. I go on and on. That is the problem I ask him to address, and that is the concern I raise. If these types of things are going on, then we, as members, have to have the information so that we will know how to respond, as well, to questions we are receiving from constituents.

I want to ask him again. This review is going on. Can he tell the members of this House when some of those plans, the implementation plans from the various ministries, are going to be available to members of this House so that we can review them, so that we can perhaps criticize them and ask him to review them, etc.? If he

wants input from members of this House on where they are heading, then he has to give us the information beforehand.

Second, I want to go back to the question on colleges. I have worked with the board of directors at Cambrian College. I spoke at their graduation. We have a very good relationship and I get all of the correspondence that they are sending to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) concerning being designated under Bill 8. That is not the problem.

The problem is that the general public does not know what is included in the bill. It was not someone from Cambrian College who called me, stating its case about the positions that have been designated. One of my constituents who had a concern about the hiring policy said the hiring policy was due strictly to Bill 8, which it is not. It is a hiring policy that the college set itself. The real problem is that the public does not know, and that is what I am trying to get him to address—nothing about the college. They are doing a superb job. I have no problem with that.

I want to ask him if he can give this House some idea of what information about the bill has been sent out to the general public, both anglophones and francophones, about what the bill entails and what services they can expect.

There was one further thing. When I was making my statements about Bill 77, I asked if the minister might be able to give me some idea whether there was a publicity campaign that was carried out after May, when this bill was passed. Perhaps he can give me some idea of what the price of that campaign might have been.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Some \$300,000 was expended on publicity. Also, the Ministry of Education spent approximately \$250,000 for special initiatives. I think these amounts are very, very gratifying.

Also, the member referred to Cambrian College. I would like to remind the honourable member that we have had at least three meetings with Cambrian, and I am not talking about other meetings with other members of the commission or the Office of Francophone Affairs. If, after three meetings, Cambrian College is still having a problem, I think it should write to us and let us know what the score is and we will be pleased to help.

The member also referred to plans. As the honourable member knows, this is in the second phase of these plans. Again, these plans are being evaluated and improved. I go through every plan and we keep reminding deputy ministers and ministers of their responsibilities towards Bill 8.

It is a back-and-forth kind of negotiation that is taking place right now, so it is very difficult for me to stand in this House and let members know on an everyday basis what kind of negotiations are going on with 7,000 agencies and 30 ministries. It is very difficult.

These people are working on this every day. I wish I could provide the member with more information. The commission provides this House with an annual report. Members have received the first one, and very shortly, within the next couple of weeks, they will receive the second annual report. If it does not satisfy the member's needs, I am sure the chairman of the commission will be only too pleased to sit down with her and go over his report.

Also to my friend the member for Sudbury East, I would like to offer the assistance of la Commission, l'Office des affaires francophones, or even myself, to brief her caucus. We are that open. If she thinks her caucus would like a briefing, would like to see the video, we will be only too pleased to do it. I think l'Association canadienne-francaise de l'Ontario has met with the member's caucus and with the third party caucus. It has done a good job, not only of trying to promote Bill 8, but to talk about the consequences of Bill 8 for francophones.

I think we are doing a good job. We could be doing better with more money and more time, but I am satisfied that we will meet our deadline of November 1989. I will be the first one to criticize my colleagues in cabinet if they are not up to date.

That is the way I feel about Bill 8. It is my responsibility to see that Bill 8 is respected. It is one bill that touches every ministry. It does not matter if it is the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Health, they phone me. So it makes it very difficult, but I try to cope with them to the best of my ability. Again, I want to ask them to be patient for one more year, not 42 years, and Bill 8 will be in place.

M. le Président: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres députés qui voudraient faire des interventions? Madame la députée de Sudbury-Est.

Mlle Martel: Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je dois le dire encore une fois: There is not a problem with Cambrian College. If I can go back to the minister, the problem is that the public does not know what is included in the bill. There was a constituent who called to say that he thought the college was wrong, that the hiring practice is in place because of Bill 8, and that is not the problem. The college is not designated.

The point I am trying to make is that there is all kinds of confusion out there as to whether hospitals are included or not, whether municipalities are included or not, whether colleges are included or not. It is not the college I am talking about, it is the general public looking at it, trying to sort out what the bill entails and if it is going to affect them.

So I want to go back to the question I asked on that, which was: Can the minister outline to me what type of information has been sent out to the general public, both anglophone and francophone, about this bill? That is all I am asking.

1700

The second thing is this: I understand the difficulties and the complexities of dealing with deputy ministers in each of the ministries in trying to put together how this bill will be implemented in each ministry. All I am asking the minister is if he can give this House some idea and some assurance that we as members are going to see what is going on in the ministries, because we are not going to get it out of here. We are not going to get the plans of each ministry and what it is doing and what the agencies are doing from the annual report.

I would like to ask him when that information will be made available to us, because the implementation of those services is already being put in place. Not next November; it is happening now. It is increasingly difficult for us as members to respond to that when we have no information on what is happening or why or the positions to be designated or if training is going to be provided. Are we going to get to see some of that? Are we going to find out what is going on before all the changes take place?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Again, on advertising or publicity or promotion, here is an example. Five thousand of these were printed: French Language Services Act Implementation Procedure Manual. Not every civil servant in this province is aware of this booklet, but I am sure that more and more people are learning every day what the implementation of Bill 8 is all about. I have pointed out Zoom; 130,000 copies.

Every minister has the responsibility of promoting Bill 8 within his ministry. I think it is a golden opportunity for the New Democratic Party members to ask ministers, when they give their budget estimates, "What about Bill 8? How many positions have you designated?" and the cost and so on and so forth. It is a golden opportunity. At budget estimates, they can do this. The ministers will have to provide them

with good answers. Then members will be able to applaud them or criticize them.

I guess that is it. These were the two questions. I wish we could do more promotion, but for the time being, with one year to go, I think we are not only doing a good job with municipalities, we are doing a good job right across this province. Mind you, when I hear that one municipality, after two years, has never heard of Bill 8, I do not know. There must be something wrong.

M. le Président: Merci. Est-ce que le député de York-Nord aurait une présentation à faire?

M. Beer: Oui; merci, Monsieur le Président. J'aimerais faire quelques commentaires sur les remarques du Ministre et aussi sur celles de mes collègues la députée de Sudbury-Est et le député de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry.

Tout d'abord, j'aimerais féliciter le Ministre pour le travail que son ministère a accompli depuis l'année dernière en développant les plans pour la mise en oeuvre de la Loi 8. Il peut être assuré qu'on attend avec impatience, surtout dans la communauté francophone, l'entrée en vigueur du programme l'an prochain.

Avant de faire mes commentaires, je pense qu'il est important dans nos discussions de rendre hommage à quelqu'un qui n'est plus ici mais qui a beaucoup travaillé pour la cause francophone, pour la cause franco-ontarienne. On a déjà fait mention de M. Jean-François Aubé, qui a travaillé pour la Commission et pour la francophonie. J'ai trouvé dans une allocution prononcée la semaine dernière, à Ottawa, par M. Gérard Raymond, qui est maintenant président de la Commission des services en français, quelques paragraphes que j'aimerais lire pour le Hansard, car ce n'est pas souvent qu'on a quelqu'un qui possède les talents de M. Aubé.

Alors, je cite les paroles de M. Gérard Raymond de la semaine dernière:

«Nous connaissons tous l'engagement de Jean-François Aubé à la cause franco-ontarienne et ses réalisations, tant dans les domaines de l'animation de la jeunesse, de l'éducation, des communications et de la justice. Il était membre de la Commission des services en français depuis le tout début, et il en a même assumé la présidence par intérim. J'ai la conviction profonde que Jean-François connaissait l'inévitable depuis un certain temps déjà. Pourtant, même dans l'adversité, je l'ai senti redoublé d'effort et d'enthousiasme. On reconnaît là l'étoffe d'un grand homme et d'un grand chrétien.

«Jean-François fut et demeure pour moi une source d'inspiration; il en est de même pour des milliers d'amis et de collègues qui ont eu le

privège de le côtoyer. À la douce mémoire de Jean-François, j'exprime le voeu qu'il en soit ainsi pour la jeunesse franco-ontarienne. Puisent les jeunes, à l'instar de Jean-François, s'engager dans leur communauté, viser l'excellence, poursuivre des études et donner leur pleine mesure. Jean-François est un modèle à émuler, pour les jeunes et les moins jeunes. C'était un homme d'une finesse hors pair, d'un courage enviable et d'un dévouement qui transcendait le devoir.»

Nous n'avons pas assez de gens comme M. Aubé; mais surtout, pour une minorité, une telle perte est vraiment difficile à accepter. Quand on dit que nous allons essayer de remplacer M. Aubé, on sait fort bien que ça va être extrêmement difficile. Il est juste pour nous, dans cette Chambre, de rendre hommage au travail qu'il a accompli, et je pense que ces mots de M. Raymond expriment clairement et d'une façon importante le rôle qu'il a joué dans la communauté francophone.

I think there is one thing as we discuss Bill 8 and how it is being put in place. I think some of the comments which my colleagues have made are ones that, indeed, we do want to ask. We want to make sure that the public is aware of the nature of the program. We want to be sure that people are not frightened by it and that it is a good program based on a solid approach that is meeting the rights of the francophone community in a practical and sensible way. Surely, knowing and having information questioning the different departments of government so that we can have a better sense of their programs is very important.

It is interesting, perhaps, to note that 20 years ago—in fact, 20 years ago just about now—John Robarts had set up four task forces on various kinds of bilingual services in Ontario that dealt with this House, with the provincial public service, municipalities and legislative services, especially the debates and bills. I think it is important at times to look back at that time and then to look forward and have some sense, none the less, of where we have come. As the minister has said, quite correctly, there is still a lot to do. None the less, a lot has happened. I would like to just note briefly a few things that I think are important to underline in this regard.

If we leave aside the whole area of education, which has been, in a sense, dealt with in a separate fashion and where, undoubtedly, we see the most progress over the years, we can none the less look at various other important areas of government, whether we are talking about the courts or whether we are talking about a variety

of other government services where we now have in place personnel, programs and documents in French, serving the French-speaking population of Ontario. I suspect that if those who were in this House 20 years ago were here today, and in fact there are a couple who were here then, they would have not thought that we would have accomplished as much as we have.

1710

I think one of the things that happens as you proceed and try to implement a greater program of bilingual services is that you also, of course, raise expectations. As soon as you have dealt with putting some of these services in place, other requests come forward because people want to have as full and as broad a range of services as is possible.

If we look into the future, I think we recognize that for the francophone community, issues such as day care centres, illiteracy and the training of teachers, as well as the development of the different social service and health service issues, are certainly going to be extremely important. If we can really attack those through Bill 8 and ensure that the programs we have in the different ministries are sensitive to those needs, which in many respects may be different from those of the anglophone community—it is not just the case of providing services but being, I think, very sensitive to what are the Franco-Ontarians' needs in terms of those services, where there are perhaps cultural differences in leading forward.

In this Legislature—the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) was here earlier—we have talked often about the problems of illiteracy. We know that within the francophone community that poses a particular problem, especially with those older workers who have perhaps had to work in English or have had to work in a kind of *franglais*. Through the creation of the Office of Francophone Affairs and the commission, I think we now have vehicles whereby we can look at the different programs the ministries are bringing forward to ensure they really do respond to the needs the francophone community has identified. I think it is extremely useful for us to review the nature of the program with the minister today.

I think all of us will want to pay particular attention to how we work with the public and especially, as the member from Sudbury East has said, be able to have the information to explain clearly and carefully the nature of the program when we are meeting with those working in the provincial public service or in other areas. I think one of the things that has developed within

Ontario is a greater acceptance that these services are required. I think people of good faith, when they have the information they require, can then see that we can proceed with sensible and adequate programs. I think that in response to the minister, all of us would want to assist him in whatever way we could.

The various publications, such as Zoom which I took around to all the French-language schools in my riding, were a terrific hit, because here were vehicles for communicating that were lively, that had various articles and stories. I think we probably need to be looking at more of that kind of thing to reach out to people, so that they are aware of the different programs that are developing.

I think a great deal has gone forward. I think the ministry, the minister's staff have done an excellent job over the last two years in moving us to the point where we are. We know what the work is ahead and I think that a year from now we will have an important and substantial program in place.

M. le Président: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres députés qui voudraient faire des commentaires, des présentations? Le député de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry.

M. Villeneuve: Merci bien, Monsieur le Président. Tout simplement en réponse au Ministre tout à l'heure, mon ancien collègue de Cornwall était le critique de son ministère au moment où le projet de loi 8 fut appuyé à l'unanimité ici, à l'Assemblée législative, et la raison pour laquelle nous voulions précipiter la chose de trois à deux ans était pure et simple: c'était pour éviter l'agonie qui continue. C'est un mal qui s'explique avec difficulté dans la mesure où nous sommes un peu dans le noir sur ce qui se passe dans les différents ministères.

Comme je lui ai posé la question tout à l'heure, il semblerait que oui, Hydro a peut-être une façon de procéder à la mise en oeuvre du projet de loi 8. Maintenant, qu'est-ce que c'est? De quelle façon est-ce que ça s'applique? Qui est-ce que ça touche, surtout dans une région tout près d'une région désignée bilingue? C'est là qu'est le problème. C'est la même chose pour la Police provinciale de l'Ontario, pour la Régie des alcools et pour différentes sociétés de la Couronne.

I could go on and on about the areas of the unknown, the vacuum, and that is why we wished to precipitate from three to two years, so that at this point in time people would know exactly what is happening. We are still wondering what is happening.

As I mentioned in French, what is the policy of the Ontario Provincial Police in areas very close to designated areas? Is it a standard policy in areas that are away from designated areas? Hospitals, the same thing; and agencies, boards and commissions. I can tell you, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission down in the area I represent is faced with a dilemma and we now have the polarization that has occurred, and it has only occurred since the implementation of Bill 8. Possibly it was there before, but it certainly had not surfaced.

We have a number of areas that are irritating a number of people and we have to clarify those. We have to clarify them as quickly as possible, and that was the main reason we wanted to precipitate the time to put the legislation in place from three to two years.

I think the minister referred to there being no services in French prior to this government's taking office. Well, I have to beg to differ with him. I have not been a member of this Legislature for a long time. I came in December 1983. In the period of time when the previous government was in place, not once did I hear complaints that were related to linguistic problems. French letters were being answered in French. We did not have designated areas, but we certainly had civil servants who were able to converse in the two official languages of our country.

I certainly support Bill 8. However, the unknowns about it have created problems and we must, as quickly as possible, enlighten our public and make sure people know what is happening.

Mr. Wildman: I want to commend my colleague the member for York North (Mr. Beer) for his comments. I really did not intend to get involved in this debate, but I was provoked by my colleague from the united counties. To suggest that prior to 1985 there were no problems or no complaints about the availability of French-language services in this province is ridiculous.

Mr. Villeneuve: I heard none.

Mr. Wildman: The man may not have heard. There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.

I come from a part of northern Ontario where about 20 per cent or 25 per cent of the population is francophone. One community in my riding that is well-known to the francophone community of Ontario is Dubreuilville, which is 90 to 95 per cent francophone. Actually, it is a piece of Quebec in northern Ontario. Most of the inhabitants of Dubreuilville are originally from Quebec, many of them from Gaspésie, and many of those people are unilingual francophones.

If no one else has raised complaints in this House or in letters to the minister, I will tell my colleague from the united counties that I raised many complaints about the fact that my constituents, my electors from Dubreuilville, were unable to get services from the provincial government and government agencies in their mother tongue.

1720

I commend the government for its attempts to move in this area, but I think the minister would agree with me that there is a long way to go.

For instance, in terms of hospital services, if an individual from Dubreuilville requires hospitalization, the nearest hospital is in Wawa, the Lady Dunn General Hospital. It provides very good service but that service is not usually available in French. There is very seldom a bilingual nurse on duty and in most cases, if there is translation required, it has to be done by one of the custodial staff for the nurses and the doctors.

Even worse, if a constituent from Dubreuilville is transferred to Sault Ste. Marie for medical attention, there is nothing that provides him with French-language service. As a matter of fact, if there is bilingual service available in Sault Ste. Marie, it is most likely to be Italian and English, not French and English. I think that Italian service is necessary. I am not debating that, as 25 per cent of the population of Sault Ste. Marie is of Italian extraction.

But over the years, I have been raising the need for medical services in French, particularly first-line medical services but also psychological and psychiatric services and social work services, because if a person is dealing with an emotional problem and has to explain his or her feelings to a professional, that is difficult in itself, but to require that person to do it in a language which is not his or her first language makes it even more difficult.

I recognize that in northern Ontario we have a very difficult time in attracting professionals of all sorts and it is even more difficult to attract French-speaking professionals because there is a demand for their services elsewhere.

I think it is a bit much to have anyone in this House pretend that there were not complaints. I am not a person of perverse nature. I am not someone who just complains for the sake of complaining. I am not the only person who has brought these concerns to the fore in this House. Members from all three political parties in the past have pointed out the difficulties of providing French-language services, particularly in the medical field, in northern and eastern Ontario.

To have my colleague from eastern Ontario suggest that he never heard any complaints I find very hard to take.

I would hope that all of us in this House would strive to provide services, whether medical services, social services, police services or services of government agencies and ministries, in both official languages in areas where there are significant numbers of people of both languages.

I commend the minister and the work the government is doing. When I still complain, as I do, about the services that are available, it is not because I do not recognize that progress has been made, but because, as the minister would agree, we still have a long way to go.

M. le Président: Monsieur le Ministre, voulez-vous répondre?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Mon collègue le député de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry m'a accusé tantôt d'avoir répété en Chambre qu'il n'y avait aucun service en place. Je crois que je vais faire la vérification du Hansard, Monsieur le Président. Ce que j'ai dit, c'est qu'on n'avait pas de personnel en place. C'est beau d'avoir une vitrine avec toutes sortes de belles choses dans la vitrine, mais lorsque nous voulions nous faire servir en français, il n'y avait personne pour nous donner ces services.

Je me souviendrai toujours de ma première journée, le jour où j'ai été nommé ministre des Affaires municipales. On cherchait une machine à écrire avec des accents; on ne pouvait pas en trouver à Toronto, de machine à écrire avec des accents. Alors on dit qu'il y avait des services en place. Je crois que mon collègue a la mémoire très, très courte.

If I may address a few comments to my friend the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), my friend knows northern Ontario like he knows the back of his hand, and I appreciated his comments. I support him 100 per cent when he claims that northern Ontario is in dire straits. They need more medical services, medical attention from professional people, from bilingual people, from francophones. I agree with him that it is difficult to attract people to northern Ontario, but we are trying to put a program in place. We are trying to educate our own people through our own institutions and it is not easy.

Par contre, je dois dire que le Gouvernement a fait du progrès, on a fait un bout de chemin. On ne peut cependant pas former des médecins, des avocats, des spécialistes de ce genre en deux, trois ou quatre ans. Il faut penser à nos institutions, il faut penser à nos collèges. Je crois que le Gouvernement, il y a un mois, il y a cinq

ou six semaines, a parlé d'un collège dans l'Est de l'Ontario, et je suis sûr qu'on verra un collège dans le Sud, dans le Nord de l'Ontario dans les années à venir. Je veux rappeler aux députés que le Gouvernement est déterminé à améliorer ces services, tout en offrant aux francophones la possibilité de recevoir un enseignement, d'être instruits dans leur langue, et je suis convaincu que nous allons réussir.

Alors si on pouvait passer aux chiffres, Monsieur le Président...

An hon. member: Fat chance.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Fat chance?

M. le Président: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres députés qui veulent faire des présentations, qui ont des questions ou des commentaires? La députée de Sudbury-Est.

Mlle Martel: J'ai une question à propos du budget des dépenses, à la page 23 de notre cahier. J'ai de la difficulté à comprendre les chiffres qui paraissent sous les rubriques «dollars refusés» et «pourcentage dollars refusés». Je voudrais avoir une explication de la méthode par laquelle le Ministre a calculé les chiffres qui paraissent ici.

The problem I have, if I can just go through it quite quickly, is this: I am not sure how the two figures were actually arrived at in terms of the amount of money not granted, the percentage of dollars refused, because as we tried to go through it to put it into some order, our numbers were different in those two areas. Perhaps the minister can go through those two sections just to tell me how he arrived at the figure of \$1.5 million, and second, the percentage of 50 in the category of dollars refused. If there is a problem with that, I can explain to him what we have done and how there is a discrepancy between that and what appears here.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: We are on the same page; 82 projects were turned down. Most of these projects were turned down for a very simple reason: We did not have the money. I am sure the honourable member will notice, just above the refusals, some \$870,000 was distributed, but we received 172 requests and we could only respond to 90.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, si mes deux collègues pouvaient convaincre le Premier Ministre et mes collègues au Conseil des ministres que l'Office des affaires francophones a besoin de plus d'argent, les demandes sont là. Je dois dire que chaque année, surtout depuis les trois dernières années, les francophones deviennent beaucoup plus... Ils ne sont pas exigeants,

mais ils reconnaissent qu'ils ont des outils, qu'ils ont des moyens de travailler. Par contre, vu le montant limité que nous avons à distribuer, ça devient très difficile. Si on fait la comparaison des demandes de trois millions de dollars et des 1 500 000 \$ que nous avons refusés, je crois que c'est très difficile.

Par contre, je leur demande encore leur appui. If they can write to the Premier and my cabinet colleagues and remind them that I do need more money in l'Office des affaires francophones, I would appreciate it. I wish I could ask for more.

1730

Mlle Martel: Ce n'est pas le montant, c'est le calcul. D'accord? C'est-à-dire...

M. Villeneuve: Les mathématiques.

Mlle Martel: Oui, c'est ça. Il y a un montant d'argent demandé de presque trois millions de dollars, puis pour l'argent donné — c'est la troisième colonne — on a un résultat qui, à mon avis, n'est pas correct.

The problem we see is that we think the money which was refused, the \$1.56 million that is mentioned, should come from money demanded minus the amount of money given. We have arrived at a different figure and I am just trying to sort out if that is the way the calculation was done.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I have an answer—do not try; you will not be able to get the right figures. If one wants to read above the \$870,000 donnés, 90 projects were accepted. That represents the number of dollars needed for those 90 projects.

If one looks below, 82 projects were refused, totalling \$1.5 million. But one cannot go up and down the column and try to add those figures. They only represent the number of projects, 82, which were refused, and those refusals totalled \$1.5 million; and 90 projects which were accepted represent \$870,000. Does that answer her question? It is difficult.

Mr. Wildman: I have never had a problem in this House of admitting I do not know the answer to something, although we on the opposition usually try never to ask a question unless we already know the answer.

I do want to ask the minister if he could give me some information with regard to another aspect of francophone affairs besides what I was referring to a few moments ago, that is government services to franco-Ontarians, assistance to help the francophone community have a sense of community and assist in the development of French culture, particularly in the smaller com-

munities which do not have a lot of cultural activities of any kind beyond sports and that sort of thing. For instance, I know in Sault Ste. Marie there has been the establishment of a centre francophone.

Also in Blind River in my riding, and I understand in the riding of Nickel Belt in Chapleau, there has been a similar organization assisted by the provincial government which serves as a centre for the francophone community and also enables the community to get involved in cultural activities, whether it even be just a library, a bibliothèque, or theatrical productions or a meeting centre, those kinds of things.

I am wondering if the minister could clarify for me what ministry—I doubt it is his; perhaps it is—provides that kind of assistance and how perhaps an unorganized group of francophones in a small community might go about getting organized and being able to organize this kind of a centre which would then help to develop the French fact in the small communities across northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: In most, let's say large or urban areas, there is always an ACFO or community centres, les centres culturels. Sault Ste. Marie is a very good example, and Timmins for instance, and Windsor. I will be in Windsor on Sunday. These people organize themselves and want to promote French culture and also want to promote themselves. They want to be part of the community and to be recognized as community-minded people. But in unorganized areas, where francophones are very, very few, it is very difficult.

I wish that these people—and I am sure the member does this in his part of this province—would write my office or write the Office of Francophone Affairs or even the commission, and we will certainly try to assist them, financially or otherwise. There is not only my office or my ministry that can provide these services, but also the Ministry of Citizenship, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ministry of Health. It depends on their needs. I will certainly assist those groups, if I can refer to them as groups, unorganized groups. We will certainly try to assist them.

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the comments of the minister and I will just tell him that the largest community of my riding in my riding, the metropolis of Algoma, Wawa, which has 5,000 people in total population, has a significant francophone community and there is an effort now to organize that community in such a way

that it might be able to tap into whatever assistance is available from the provincial level, to assist them in developing a centre francophone, similar to ones that were developed in Chapleau, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, Blind River and so on.

I will pass along the minister's comments to the individuals who are initiating this effort in Wawa and look forward to whatever assistance he can provide them. I have already put them in touch with the centre in Sault Ste. Marie and also with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, so hopefully they will be able to get some assistance. I would be quite happy to have the minister visit Wawa to open the centre after he has funded it.

Mlle Martel: J'ai une question à propos de Renseignements Ontario. Je voudrais savoir deux choses. Premièrement, quel est le budget de ce programme? Deuxièmement, est-ce que le programme va continuer après le 18 novembre 1989, après la mise en oeuvre de la Loi 8?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Bonne question. Peut-être que je devrais répondre à la deuxième question avant de procéder à la première.

Où, nous avons l'intention de poursuivre le programme Renseignements Ontario après le 19 novembre 1989 parce qu'il répond certainement aux besoins de la communauté. Nous n'avons aucune intention d'abolir le projet; je crois que c'est un projet qui en vaut la peine.

1740

En ce qui concerne le budget, sans donner de chiffres, je peux dire à la députée que c'est un grand service: il y a deux employés, une ligne téléphonique. Imaginons: tantôt, j'ai demandé à mes critiques d'écrire à mes collègues du Conseil des ministres en leur disant que j'ai besoin de plus d'argent. Cela, c'en est la preuve: deux employés, une ligne téléphonique. Est-ce qu'on peut trouver un chiffre? Peut-être 2,75 \$ ou 2,95 \$, quelque chose comme ça? C'est très peu. On ne l'a pas?

Interjection.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Ah, bon.

M. le Président: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres députés qui ont des questions, des commentaires?

M. Villeneuve: Le Ministre a plusieurs projets communautaires qui ont été financés par son ministère; il y en a plusieurs qui ont été refusés. Peut-il nous décrire un peu les grandes lignes de la façon de procéder pour être soit accepté ou refusé? Qu'est-ce qui fait qu'une demande est admissible?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je crois que mon collègue parle des critères à satisfaire. Je dois avouer que je ne connais pas tous les critères. La plupart des programmes qui sont acceptés d'année en année, ce sont des programmes qui sont prouvés. La plupart de ces groupes-là reçoivent très peu, 2000 \$ ou 3000 \$; ce sont des sommes très minimes. Je dois dire que la plus grande somme qu'on remet, on la remet toujours à l'ACFO, et l'ACFO la dépense très bien et rapidement. Si je pouvais lui en donner encore plus, je suis sûr que l'ACFO ferait encore plus de travail qu'elle n'en fait présentement.

Ce sont surtout des organismes ou des groupes à but non lucratif qui sont là pour promouvoir des services en français, pour promouvoir leur culture. Comme je l'ai mentionné tantôt à mon collègue le député d'Algoma (M. Wildman), ils sont axés sur le développement de la communauté et la promotion du civisme.

Alors les critères, je regrette d'avouer que je ne les connais pas. Par contre, je suis sûr que je pourrais donner tous ces critères aux critiques par écrit. Les objectifs du programme sont les suivants: augmenter la qualité des services offerts, améliorer la qualité des services existants et répondre aux besoins spécifiques de la population francophone. Je suis sûr que je pourrais en offrir d'autres à mes chers collègues; je pourrais leur faire une liste de ces critères-là.

M. Villeneuve: Est-ce que le manuel que le Ministre a mentionné tout à l'heure est maintenant disponible? Il a mentionné une fois qu'il y en avait 10 000 copies, 5000 copies qui avaient été préparées. Si je me souviens bien, je crois qu'un de mes collègues, à un moment donné... Puis je dois avouer que je ne l'ai jamais vu. J'en discutais ici avec ma collègue de Sudbury-Est et nous n'étions même pas au courant de l'existence de ce formulaire. Est-ce que le Ministre peut nous dire depuis quand c'est disponible et depuis quand c'est disponible pour le public?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Depuis 1987.

Interjection.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Mon collègue a parlé du public, depuis quand c'est... Non. Ce que j'ai montré tantôt n'était pas distribué au public, du fait que c'était le «French Language Services Act Implementation Procedure Manual»; ça concernait les ministères. Alors, ça a été distribué aux gérants, aux sous-ministres, aux ministres, à tous ces gens-là.

Est-ce qu'on a une liste de ces gens-là, des 5000? C'est interne dans les ministères? 5000 copies?

M. Villeneuve: C'est un petit problème, vu que nous avons fait la demande d'une copie, il y a à peu près six mois, et elle nous a été refusée.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je m'excuse, Monsieur le Président, je n'ai pas compris la question.

M. Villeneuve: Un de mes collègues a fait la demande du manuel, exactement celui dont on parle, et puis on nous a dit qu'il n'était pas disponible pour le public. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous n'avons jamais eu l'occasion d'en obtenir copie pour savoir ce qui se passe quant à la mise sur pied; c'est précisément ce dont on parle cet après-midi.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je répète que ça concerne les ministères. Peut-être qu'on a refusé cette copie au collègue du critique parce que le manuel ne touche pas les personnes à l'extérieur des ministères. Par contre, il y a 5000 autres «kits», ou pochettes d'information, si vous voulez, qui ont été distribuées au grand public.

Cinq mille, je dois reconnaître qu'on a 500 000 francophones et beaucoup plus d'anglophones qui auraient pu être satisfaits de recevoir une pochette. J'ai un budget limité, je le répète. J'aimerais bien distribuer 500 000 pochettes. Par contre, nous sommes très limités. Je crois que nous faisons un très bon travail avec ce que nous avons.

M. Villeneuve: Finalement, un des problèmes que nous avons, c'est la communication. Nous avons mentionné à plusieurs reprises que la communication laisse à désirer, puis je crois que, surtout si au moins les critiques et nos collègues à l'Assemblée législative pouvaient en avoir des copies, nous serions en mesure d'expliquer au moins un petit peu plus facilement à nos gens qui ont de la difficulté à accepter, à comprendre et à se rendre compte de ce qui se passe en ce qui concerne la mise en oeuvre du projet de loi 8 dans les différents ministères.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: J'inviterais mon collègue à répondre aux gens à qui ça a été refusé – je ne sais pas à quel endroit ça leur a été refusé, à quel bureau – si le Député veut bien me donner le nom et l'adresse de cette personne-là, et s'il avait dit qu'il était un député, j'ai de la difficulté à avaler une telle chose, puisqu'un député fait partie du gouvernement de l'Ontario. J'aimerais en savoir plus long sur qui lui a refusé un tel document.

Mlle Martel: J'ai demandé une copie du document aussi parce que, quand j'ai reçu le rapport annuel, j'ai vu que quelque chose comme cela existait. Je m'y intéresse pour savoir comment le ministère va mettre en oeuvre des

programmes par rapport à la Loi 8. Alors c'est moi et mon cabinet qui avons demandé une copie de cela. Je ne suis pas sûre à qui mon assistante a parlé, mais de toute façon, on nous a dit qu'il était impossible d'en avoir copie, que cela n'existait pas en édition reliée; alors c'est la raison pour laquelle il m'était impossible d'en avoir copie.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Je m'excuse au nom de cette personne-là. Assurément, les députés ont accès à un tel volume et je leur en ferai parvenir un demain matin — pas par la poste, mais personnellement.

M. le Président: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres députés qui ont des questions ou des commentaires? Sinon, Monsieur le Ministre, avez-vous des commentaires finals?

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Si on a deux ou trois minutes, je voudrais réitérer le plaisir que je ressens aujourd'hui; c'est la deuxième occasion. Je répète que je veux remercier non seulement les francophones de l'opposition mais je veux également remercier les anglophones, qui sont très sensibles en ce qui concerne la question culturelle, la question du bilinguisme en Ontario. Je m'aperçois que chaque semaine, chaque mois, on rencontre des gens très sympathiques qui veulent que l'Ontario se développe du côté culturel, et non seulement du côté anglophone ou francophone; on le voit chez les Chinois, les Italiens, les Vietnamiens, tous ces gens-là.

Alors c'est pour ça que le Gouvernement, il y a une semaine à peine, parlait du Programme d'enseignement des langues d'origine. Alors ça, c'est le respect du patrimoine, de notre langue. Ce sont des programmes que le Gouvernement se propose d'améliorer, d'augmenter au cours des prochaines années. Je profite de l'occasion pour remercier — je ne les appellerai pas mes critiques

aujourd'hui — pour remercier mes collègues, qui ont cette sensibilité envers la culture française.

Le crédit 402 est adopté.

Vote 402 agreed to.

À la suite d'une motion présentée par l'hon. M. Grandmaitre, le comité des subsides fait rapport d'une certaine résolution.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre, the committee of supply reported a certain resolution.

Mr. Speaker: The government House leader may have some information for the House.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Speaker was attending to some domestic responsibilities in the adjoining room that were quite impressive, I want to say to my friend from Moose Creek.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, November 7, we will deal with second reading of Bill 147, the Independent Health Facilities Act.

On Tuesday, November 8, we will debate the nonconfidence motion standing in the name of the honourable the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae).

On Wednesday, November 9, we will deal with second reading of Bill 175, the Water Transfer Control Act.

On Thursday morning, we will consider private members' business standing in the names of the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) and the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon). In the afternoon of Thursday we will deal with the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services.

The House adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orile L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrudola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
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 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
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Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
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 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 100

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Monday, November 7, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, November 7, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Philip: The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) circulated to the Liberal members of this Legislature a package of information which was to be used in support of her unsupportable Bill 113. This package contained a report on a study entitled *The Impact of Sunday Shopping in Alberta, 1982 to 1986*, by Clayton Research Associates of Toronto.

I have now received a response to my request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The response is that the report does not exist within the ministry. We were further advised that we should contact Clayton Research Associates of Toronto. Clayton Research Associates claims it does not have any such report and that we should contact John Winter of John Winter and Associates. Mr. Winter claims that while he offered to prepare a study on Sunday shopping for the government, the government never accepted his offer.

It is fairly clear that the Solicitor General failed to do adequate research prior to tabling Bill 113. Now that it is equally clear that the one Canadian study used by the minister to justify her case is just another myth and does not exist, I call on the minister to be honest with the public and admit this.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Harris: I have a letter of interest to the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston). It comes from a Mr. Cochrane, 145 Holditch Street, in Sturgeon Falls:

"Dear Sir:

"I am writing this letter concerning car insurance. I would like you to read this letter in the Legislature if possible."

It is possible.

Interjection.

Mr. Harris: I know the member is not.

"I have and own a 1986 Ford Taurus V6 four-door (9,300 kms). Last year I paid \$454 complete coverage—PL, PDFT comprehensive,

collision, passenger. I paid it today—\$632. That is an increase of 40 per cent.

"My complaint is, what kind of government are Mr. Peterson and Bob Rae, NDP, running to allow this kind of thing to go on? Robbery in disguise.

"Believe me, this Liberal government is taking us to the cleaners. I am a senior citizen and have a perfect record—50 years without an insurance claim—accident-free. I should get a medal not an increase like that. I'm a six-star client and I want it made clear this is the cheapest my agent could find for me. Imagine, the cheapest!

"I hope this gang of care-for-nothing-but-themselves get the boot next time around and we get our PCs back again in power.

"Thank you.

"Yours truly,

"Edwin Cochrane."

I am sending a copy of this letter over to the minister. Perhaps he would like to explain his way out of this directly to Mr. Cochrane himself.

4-H CLUB

Mrs. Sullivan: I would like to speak today about the achievements of 4-H club members in the Halton region. I had the honour recently of attending the Halton 4-H awards banquet in Brookville and was very impressed by the young men and women involved.

In a region which has changed significantly over the past 25 years and where the role of agriculture has become part of that change, the 4-H movement remains a strong force. We have a small 4-H in Halton, but we have a very successful one. In all, there are only about 120 members, but they are very active and complete over 300 projects a year.

A good example of their success can be found at this fall's Royal Winter Fair. The Halton 4-H club will have 19 members competing, more than double last year's efforts. Last year, we had nine award winners, including two first-place finishers. But the rewards of 4-H go well beyond the tangible awards. Our young rural people, agriculture's greatest resource, develop skills and interests that will help keep Canada at the forefront of the agricultural world.

I know that many members of the House are former 4-Hers and that they will join me in recognizing 4-Hers, not only in Halton but throughout the province, at the conclusion of this project year.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF OFFENDERS

Mr. Farnan: It is unfortunate that the only real alternative to overcrowding in our prisons and to incarceration offered by the Ministry of Correctional Services is the concept of electronic monitoring, which is both dehumanizing and of little rehabilitative value.

The recently announced pilot project, aimed at the early release of low-risk offenders in prison for minor crimes or failure to pay parking fines, is unnecessary. Instead of saying, "We don't know how to deal with this class of offender so we will incarcerate them in their homes and monitor them electronically," the ministry should be creating alternatives to incarceration, alternatives which include rehabilitative programs.

In Alberta, for example, a large number of inmates, especially fine defaulters, are released on a temporary absence program and with each year the rate of recidivism for those on such programs decreases. Since 1976, an average of less than one per cent of those released under TAP have committed other offences.

Both Saskatchewan and Alberta have developed successful fine-option programs in which fine defaulters are not sent to prison but are required to do community work. Ontario, by contrast, has a very limited fine-option program in operation. It is sad that the mentality of this ministry continues to focus on incarceration, whether in prison or in the home, and neglects meaningful alternative rehabilitative programs.

FINANCIAL TRUST

Mr. Runciman: On two occasions in the past few weeks, I raised concerns with the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) regarding the province's \$10-million loan guarantee to facilitate the sale of Financial Trust Co. to Central Capital. The minister and his government made this \$10-million commitment without any statement of explanation in the House and subsequently failed to adequately answer questions from me and from the financial press dealing with this matter.

In the face of significant regulatory failure, the minister's only response to my questions has been to attack me for making outlandish state-

ments; statements, I should add, that have been dead on, as revealed in a recent series of articles on this matter in the Financial Post.

With the exception of the Financial Post, questions about the use of public dollars to cover the tails of the minister and his regulators and the breakdown of the regulatory system have been largely ignored by the media, but hopefully that will not stop the government from taking a close look at what happened in this situation.

The Ministry of Financial Institutions deals with some very complex and important matters, and I urge the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to give it the priority he said it rated during the Greymac-Crown Trust affair. In the past three years, both the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) have been assigned financial institutions as a secondary responsibility and have treated them that way. It is time to appoint a minister solely responsible for the Ministry of Financial Institutions and I urge him to get on with the job before more serious problems arise.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The member's time has expired.

ST. GEORGE BOARDING HOUSE

1340

Mr. Kanter: I would like to inform members of the opening of St. George boarding house which I attended recently in my riding. This residence, established by the Supportive Housing Coalition of Metro Toronto and Anglican Houses, will provide affordable housing for 24 adults with a history of psychiatric disabilities.

Renovating and operating St. George required the co-operation of three ministries, Metro, the city of Toronto and several private agencies, but I am particularly proud of the role that local residents, my constituents and neighbours, played in support of this project. I remember when the Supportive Housing Coalition came to a meeting of the Annex Residents' Association and proposed the project. There was a lively discussion with the residents' group, not about opposing the project but about the adequacy of the facilities. There was a vote and the ARA supported the project unanimously.

There was understanding and acceptance rather than shouting and pickets. Residents knew their property values would not be threatened, there would be no increase in traffic or parking problems and the staff would not tolerate dangerous behaviour in that house or in the adjacent community.

Today, I want to pay particular recognition to the residents of the Annex neighbourhood who supported this worthwhile project. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Mary Corbett, the current president of the association, who is in the member's gallery today, and also note the support of Ila Bossons, the former president of the association.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I want to announce some good news for commuters in the greater Toronto area. As of January 9, 1989, GO rail service on the 50-kilometre Milton line will increase from three trips to five weekday round trips.

This nearly \$19-million expansion will greatly benefit commuters from Halton and Peel regions. The upgrading of the service with a number of new bilevel commuter cars also includes expansion of the Erindale GO station in Mississauga. The expansion will increase the Milton line frequency from three to five rush-hour trains into Toronto in the morning and from three to four rush-hour trains from Toronto in the evening, plus a fifth home-bound trip for commuters returning in the early evening at about 7:30.

As of January 9, GO Transit will also offer two new home-bound GO bus departures from Toronto, one on the Georgetown GO service and another on the Stouffville GO service.

The new bus service will give Georgetown and Stouffville commuters the same early evening options as the new schedule does for Milton commuters. Buses will run from Union Station in each instance to Malton and Georgetown and to Unionville, Markham and Stouffville.

The buses are an interim measure until GO rail service can also be expanded on these routes. I want to emphasize that this expansion of GO rail and bus service is further evidence that the province is working to meet the growing needs of commuters in the greater Toronto area.

RESPONSES

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Bryden: Naturally we welcome expansion of the GO service to various parts of the ex-urbanite area, because those commuters include both high- and low-income people. The low-income people are those who have been forced to buy beyond the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto because of the very high prices here.

It is unfortunate that we are producing more urban sprawl in order to solve the housing problem and also, at the same time, encouraging the kind of luxury building that leads to even greater urban sprawl in the ex-urbanite area, because when you service people like this, who are in \$1-million or \$2-million houses, you are subsidizing close to 45 per cent of the fare for them and encouraging this kind of building. I think the minister should be looking more at limiting the kind of urban sprawl which is going on and also assisting the people in Metropolitan Toronto who are also commuters, in a sense, in that they have to buy in the outlying municipalities.

The Sheppard subway is something which should have equal prominence to this expansion of services for the ex-urbanites. I would like to know when the minister is going to get on with the Sheppard subway. When is he going to increase the subsidy for the users of public transit in the Metropolitan area to equal the subsidy that goes to the users of GO Transit?

Those are the crucial questions he should be looking at, rather than just encouraging urban sprawl further and further afield, with our picking up a large percentage of the bill.

Mr. Breaugh: I cannot miss the opportunity to commend the minister for putting an extra train on. We always appreciate that.

There are two things to bear in mind. People do need some parking accommodation at a number of the GO stops along the route, and he should bear that in mind if he really wants people to use the GO system extensively. He has to remember there are other needs that have to be met as well.

I know he will be out in Whitby in December when they bring the GO train to Whitby, finally, and I will remind him once again that it has to go a little bit further, on through Oshawa. We are still working with him very seriously every day on that.

Mrs. Marland: I know the people in Mississauga are going to be pleased to have some additional trains. I think they would have been more excited had the trains, in fact, been doubled rather than being the number that they are, going from three to five.

Obviously, on the traffic problems on the Queen Elizabeth highway, which I spoke about last week when the minister addressed the subject of the issuance of the twin passes, we feel in Mississauga that this Liberal government is not planning for the future in terms of the commuters

from the west side of Metropolitan Toronto all the way through past Hamilton.

There is a tremendous problem for those people who have to work downtown. They cannot afford to live downtown, but because their employment is there they are bound to use what transit there is. The truth of the matter is that because of the parking problems at the existing Lakeshore stops on the GO line, we do not really have a very viable alternative for the people who then have to stay in their cars simply because when they get to the GO station, there is nowhere for them to leave their cars should they wish to commute by GO transit.

While we hear very clearly the minister's announcement today, I would like to say that we would be more ecstatic had he been announcing the Eglinton or Sheppard line, additional parking spaces or indeed additional stations, which I addressed last week.

If he is sincerely planning for the future of the commuters from the western hemisphere, in terms of southwestern Ontario, we would like to see him look very seriously at electrifying that line which the GO trains use in order that he can heighten the frequency of the trains and the frequency of the stops. I would be more than happy to sit down with him and discuss what the solution is for transportation for the people who live in Mississauga and stops west.

Mr. Cousens: The honourable member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) sets out the situation very eloquently, and I commend her for her ability which enables her to present her views to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton).

I want to thank the minister. I think the one thing his government has not done since it came to power is destroy GO Transit. The government has allowed GO Transit to continue to develop and serve the people of Ontario. The fact that it has been able to have its hands off and help it do things that are positive is a good sign. I will go a step further, though. I think the fact that the government is now having to put buses on from Union Station to Markham and Stouffville is good, but would it not be so much nicer if we used the rail lines that are there?

The parkway and other methods of getting around Toronto when it comes to roads are just not good enough any more. We have the rail lines there. I know they have to be upgraded; let's do everything we can. We in the third party will help him in any way possible. We will pass the hat around. We will do anything to encourage this honourable minister to do what he can to expand and promote—

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: Oh, I will raise his hand in joy. But he should announce another train. That is when he will really start making the heart-strings tug for the people who are commuting from the north into Metro.

If he treats those who are north of Metro the same as he treats those to the east and west, then we will start seeing some more service on the Yonge Street line and some more service to those people who are wanting to use the train service from Stouffville. My friend the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger), who is not here today, would also jump for joy.

Mr. Adams: He is here in spirit.

Mr. Cousens: He is here in spirit, and he is usually here; I do not want to knock the honourable member.

May the minister be put into a position very shortly, from the pressure that is coming from ourselves, to respond to the needs of commuters who want to travel to Toronto more quickly, more safely and more economically using GO Transit train services.

The minister should keep up the good work with the bus service. That is only the beginning. May he make another announcement tomorrow and the next day. Is he making another one this afternoon? We would be honoured and pleased to congratulate him at such a time. In the meantime, he should not rest on his laurels. There is a lot more to be done.

Mr. Harris: The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission built those cars for GO Transit up in North Bay, and what a great job they did.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for ministerial statements and responses. Just before I call for oral questions, I would like to inform the members that we have a visitor in the Speaker's gallery. He is the deputy leader of the Congress (I) Party of India and a member of parliament of India for 50 years. He is Professor Ranga. Please welcome him.

Oral questions, the Leader of the Opposition with the fresh boutonnière.

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, you should have seen the smile on the face of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) when you introduced our guest. I think he saw his future stretching out before him for years. He has two weeks to go.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CHILD CARE

Mr. B. Rae: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister will no doubt have experienced the concern and heard very directly of the number of people who are on Ontario's waiting list for child care. It really is hard for the men and women of this province whose kids are on waiting lists to understand how that could be, at the same time as there are a great many centres, as the minister will know, that have empty places and empty spaces.

The minister today, I understand, told the group with whom we all met that, in fact, he could eliminate the waiting list by spending roughly \$30 million of Ontario's money. We have just heard today that the land transfer tax has increased Ontario's revenues by precisely that figure, \$30 million.

That has been the windfall gain that Ontario has experienced as a result of speculation. I wonder how the minister can justify not moving to help those people on the waiting list at precisely the time when Ontario's windfall revenues from land transfers and from housing speculation give him the money to do that job.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My recollection from our meeting this morning was that I reminded the group that was present that a number of their own delegates had met with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and me. The \$30-million figure was their assumption. I simply shared that with them.

I also shared with them that when we were asked to put in place a number of initiatives, we clearly indicated that if we had to spread the available resources over several initiatives, obviously no one of them could get as much as they would otherwise have received.

I pointed out, for example, that this year, for the very first time, we have introduced the direct grants to improve the wages of day care workers, which the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care had told us two years ago was one of their top priorities, having indicated to us that the only way we could solve both the wage problem and the parent-fee problem simultaneously was to give direct grants. I indicated that having allocated \$60 million, at their request, for wages meant that obviously those same dollars were not available for subsidies. The obvious relationship there is that if we put half as much money into the wage problem, which I was not prepared to do, and allocated it instead to subsidies, we could

have picked up the \$30-million figure they suggested to us.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: But clearly what I indicated was that we cannot—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: What the minister is saying is that, in a province as wealthy as ours, he cannot see that child care workers are paid a decent amount of money and assure parents that they will not have to wait on a waiting list for years on end. Surely in Ontario we can do better than that: we can do both those things. Surely that is the issue.

I have raised this issue countless times with the minister. I would like to go back with some very specific examples. Because of the limits that he has placed in terms of child care, many of these people are waiting, and some of them are already getting child care.

Let me give members an example. Lori Foster, who is from Ottawa, has a child in day care and is receiving a full subsidy. If she did not have a subsidy, she would pay \$940 a month. She works full-time and earns about \$22,000 a year.

In Toronto, Joy Simmonds and her husband work together, earning about \$45,000. They have three children, aged one, three and five. The two oldest are in day care and they have a baby-sitter for the youngest. They have a partial subsidy, but still pay \$700 a month.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: Is the minister seriously arguing that Joy Simmonds and her husband, for example, should give up their subsidy in order to allow someone else to get a limited space that the minister himself is responsible for limiting?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: To the best of my knowledge, I have not suggested that anyone give up a subsidy he currently has. What I have said, and I would like to repeat it again, is that, for example, in Metro there is a monthly turnover of subsidized spaces approximating about 200. When new subsidized spaces become available, they should be allocated to the people with the greatest needs; some of the people, for example, the Leader of the Opposition brought to our attention a couple of weeks ago and even had in the members' gallery, a 17-year-old young mother and two or three single parents—I believe they were about 22 or 23—who had very limited incomes, certainly much less than \$45,000 or \$40,000, who could not get access to one of the 18,000 spaces in Metro.

I will repeat my response again. When those spaces become available—they turn around, from the information I have, at about 200 a month—they should be allocated to the people with the greater need. Not that the people the member described should not be eligible, not that they are not deserving, but when there is a limited resource, it should be allocated to those with the greater need first.

Mr. B. Rae: The whole thrust of the Thomson report is that we should get rid of this notion of deserving poor and undeserving poor, that we should eliminate these distinctions that turn child care into a welfare system. It should be there as a public service. That was good enough for the Liberals when they were asking for votes in 1987. Why is it not good enough for them in 1988, when they have the money and when they are the government? Just why is it not good enough?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: There is no quarrel between the honourable member and myself in terms of the difference between deserving poor and undeserving poor, between low-income parents and higher-income parents. That is not the distinction I am trying to make. What I am clearly saying, however, is that with respect to both the Thomson report and the new child care initiatives, while we are in the process of arriving at the point we all want to get to—and I do not think there is any difference between us on that—surely the resources available have to go first to those most in need.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Premier concerning the price of resale homes in Metropolitan Toronto. According to the Toronto Real Estate Board on the weekend, prices have gone up rather dramatically once again. I would remind the Premier that in October 1985 the price of an average resale home in Toronto was \$112,800; in 1986 it was \$153,000; in 1987 it was \$194,000, and this October, \$249,811—all this going on while the inflation rate in Toronto is running at just slightly over five per cent.

That means that a family with a 15 per cent down payment of \$37,000 and a balance amortized over 25 years at the going mortgage rate will need a family income of \$86,000 and change, 38 per cent of family income. The Premier should know that—

1400

Mr. Speaker: We would like a question, please.

Mr. Laughren:—a family such as that is not going to get a mortgage. How long does the Premier intend to sit on the sidelines and watch the price of homes, fuelled by speculation, continue to rise while he does absolutely nothing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend has discussed this with the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) on numerous occasions, and I think he would be very happy to discuss it with the member.

Mr. Speaker: Redirected to the Treasurer?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the reference is a reasonable one, as the honourable member has raised this matter on a number of occasions and normally gets around in his second supplementary to advocating a special tax that would control this.

It is a very reasonable proposal that has been put forward by many people. I think the honourable member is aware that, while everyone is aware also that the rate of increase has been phenomenal, some of the majors in the real estate business—Royal LePage, I believe, about a month ago indicated that a levelling out of the rate of increase was to be expected in the following year.

The second thing is that it is not reasonable to expect the cost of housing in Toronto and the Metro area to be what the honourable member, coming from his community, or I coming from mine, would consider to be reasonable. He may have even spoken to people who have been moved here by their employers—industry, even government—who have found particular pressures. We believe that under these circumstances the market forces are already alleviating the problem, but we should not expect housing in the Metropolitan area of Toronto to be considered cheap.

Mr. Laughren: I do not think anyone is saying to the Treasurer that we expect the price of homes in Metro to be cheap.

The Treasurer referred to Royal LePage. Royal LePage, in a survey of homes across Canada, not just in Metropolitan Toronto, indicated that between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of all purchases are for speculative purposes. I would suspect, and I think the Treasurer would agree, that it is probably considerably higher than that in Metropolitan Toronto, given the dramatic rise in prices. The Royal LePage report goes on to state, and I quote briefly:

"Any factor that increases demand by 10 per cent to 20 per cent puts upward pressure on prices, so although speculation may not create

house price spirals or be solely responsible for all of the price increases, it probably contributes to the rising cost of homes."

That is a very conservative statement by Royal LePage. I wonder if the Treasurer would not agree that, given the particular aspects of home speculation in Toronto, it is time that he moved in with a speculation tax on the resale of homes?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not agree with the honourable member, although I say again that many reasonable people in the industry and the community have suggested that. My own judgement, and it is based on advice from many other sources as well, would indicate that the market forces are reliable under these particular circumstances. This is a very attractive part of the world in which to live, the business community is expanding extremely rapidly and this is the cost of living that is rational in this day and age.

Mr. Laughren: It is clear that the Treasurer expects Toronto to be an élitist city and nothing more.

I want to go back to a couple of quotes, one by the Treasurer and one by the Premier. In June of this year the Premier said, responding to my leader, that "The heat is coming somewhat out of the market;" and he said, "It looks as though there is a downward trend in this regard and we hope it will continue." At the time, the average house price in Toronto was \$232,000. A year earlier, in May 1987, the Treasurer said, "There is every indication that the soaring price of houses has reached its peak and the pressures are subsiding somewhat." That was \$60,000-per-home ago.

When is the Treasurer going to come to the realization that we are dealing here with an acute speculative problem in Metropolitan Toronto, and it is not going to be resolved until he takes the preventive measures necessary: namely, a speculative tax on the retail price of homes?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I predicted that the honourable member in his second supplementary would call for a land speculation tax and I will give him an answer that is perhaps not as difficult to hear quoted back as the one that he quoted to me a moment ago.

The honourable member is aware that the housing starts in Ontario, and in Toronto particularly, are at an all-time record high. The people building houses are building them as fast as they can be built. The lots are serviced. The allocation for capital for new schools is at an historic high, now approaching \$300 million a year. Many of these houses are very expensive and, at the same time, my colleague the Minister

of Housing (Ms. Hošek) has a budget that is growing faster than any other budget in rate of increase, to provide assistance and affordable housing for people who, through no fault of their own, find that their resources are inadequate.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We feel that this response from the government is an appropriate one, and we look forward to a more rational support from the opposition in this connection.

YOUNG OFFENDER

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Attorney General. It relates to the situation that occurred on April 12, 1985, when a young offender was found guilty of having murdered Bruce Irwin, his wife and daughter. As the Attorney General is aware, the case at that time was not transferred to adult court, and the young offender was found guilty in youth court, under which the present legislation allows for a maximum sentence of no longer than three years.

The individual in question, whom I am sure the Attorney General is familiar with, is to be freed either on or before February 6, 1989, according to the authorities. Two and a half years ago, the Attorney General said, "I want to assure the House that there will be no risk to the public whatever in this case."

Because of the apprehension within the community surrounding this case, could the Attorney General enlighten the members of the House as to what steps he might be taking to give them the kind of assurance that they and the public require with respect to this individual?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to thank the honourable member for the question. He recalls well that this was a case in which the crown attorney and the defence counsel had both recommended to the trial judge in the young offenders court that the accused should be found not guilty by reason of insanity, which would have led to a disposition other than the one that took place.

The trial judge, as he was no doubt entitled to do under the Young Offenders Act, but within his powers, rejected that submission, jointly made, and found the young person guilty. At the time, he was sentenced to the maximum sentence under the Young Offenders Act.

A number of members in the House, myself included, indicated that we were very concerned about a number of matters: first, about the constraints that are imposed on the Young Offenders Act in permitting a court to award no

longer sentence than three years, even in these extraordinary circumstances. I indicated at the time that the provisions of the Mental Health Act would be available and should be utilized at the conclusion of the sentence to determine whether the young man represents a danger to himself or to other members of the public. That will be done.

Mr. Brandt: As the Attorney General has clearly stated, the maximum sentence of three years is, in fact, unacceptable to a number of us, even though it is the maximum allowable under the current legislation.

Of concern to us as well is the fact that this particular youth apparently refused any form of treatment during the period of his approximate three-year incarceration and up until this time, to the best of my knowledge, has not accepted any assistance from the state with respect to his current condition.

Can the Attorney General give this House any assurance that there will be treatment provided or any aftercare supervision with respect to this individual when and if the individual is released on or before February 1989?

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Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member is quite correct. He and I and other members of the House were firmly of the view that the provision in the federal Young Offenders Act that made three years the maximum was absolutely inappropriate as a maximum. It is inappropriate, and this was illustrated clearly by this case.

As the honourable member says, I went to Ottawa to speak to both the Attorney General of Canada and the Solicitor General of Canada, inviting them to amend the Young Offenders Act. They have persistently refused to do so, even though they have amended other provisions. They rejected our request that an amendment should take place in this act. I am prepared to try again later in November or early in December to see if a more satisfactory resolution of the matter can take place.

When we come to this case, it had best be understood that the young man will have served the maximum sentence that the federal law allows; that he is entirely within his rights to reject medical treatment, as he has done within the correctional facility, and that he will be examined by medical doctors pursuant to the Mental Health Act to determine whether he is likely, upon release, to be an injury either to himself or to the general public. That is the limit of the authority this government or indeed any other government has in law to act until the

federal authorities can be persuaded to respond to the public concern and amend their legislation.

Mr. Brandt: We have no disagreement with respect to the Attorney General's comments on the three-year maximum nor, as I understood what he was saying, in connection with the need in certain cases, specifically this one, where treatment should be provided and where the individual in question should receive treatment during the period of incarceration. Also, I think the Attorney General would agree with me on something that my party has been bringing forward on a regular basis, the need for adequate facilities for young offenders within this province, which is clearly his responsibility and part of this particular case as well.

I would like to ask the Attorney General, by way of my final supplementary, recognizing the very understandable degree of apprehension and concern in the community and the comments that have been recorded from the students who went to school with this individual and the parents who live in close proximity to the area in which this crime took place, can he give us the clear assurance that this individual will not be put back into the community and result in a threat to the lives of the people who have in the past been associated with this individual in some way, shape or form? They are clearly concerned. They are falling back on his commitment of two and a half years ago that he will provide their safety in this particular case. Can we get that assurance?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member, who has agreed with so much of what I have said so far, would not want to cast doubt upon the efficiency and the facilities at the Syl Apps Youth Centre, named after a well-known liberal in the Kingston area. It was, when constructed, and is now, one of the most distinguished facilities of its type in this country. Dr. Chamberlain, the head of it, is one of the most prominent child psychiatrists that we have in the business.

The problem is not with the facility. The facility was there to offer psychiatric assistance to this young man. He rejected that assistance, as, under our law, he is entitled to do. The time has now come for his release under the federal Young Offenders Act. When I went to Ottawa to meet with the Attorney General, I mentioned my honourable friend's name on several occasions, but there was no impact whatever in terms of result from that fact. I intend to go later, and I will not mention his name this time but anticipate that we will have better results.

What I want to emphasize is that the only remedy that is now available to deal with this

very serious but, in a way, very heart-rending circumstance for all concerned, is to apply the provisions of the Mental Health Act which permit two medical doctors, I think it is two, to conduct an investigation to determine whether the young man is likely to be a danger to himself or the public. If he is, in their opinion, he can be detained, as anybody else can be detained. If he is not, he cannot, and the remedy remains to deal with the Young Offenders Act.

INDEPENDENT HEALTH FACILITIES

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Today we are going to be debating Bill 147 in the Legislature. Under section 26 of her proposed Independent Health Facilities Act, Ministry of Health inspectors are given the authority to enter any health facility, according to section 1 of the act, and that includes a private doctor's office or a doctor's private office, however you choose to put it.

This inspector has the authority to take records, charts, blood samples, tissue samples and interrogate any person in that doctor's office. Most unbelievable of all, a government inspector can do this without a warrant.

We think this is a violation of the most fundamental principle of patient-doctor confidentiality. My question to the minister is, how can she possibly justify such a draconian measure being included in her legislation?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the member for his question. We are indeed going to be beginning second reading of Bill 147, the Independent Health Facilities Act, and I think it is important that we understand the premises on which this bill is founded.

It is to give us a legislative framework to expand community-based services across this province and to acknowledge that technology is now permitting us to do many, many services outside of the hospital as safely as in hospital, traditionally those things which could only be provided in hospital. The act as well is to give us the same kind of quality assurance that presently exists in hospital in an independent health facility.

I look forward to discussing this with the member and the members of this House to ensure that this bill in fact achieves those objectives.

Mr. Eves: The minister speaks of independent health facilities, but I think it should be made very clear that there is a distinction between independent health facilities and health facilities. There are two different definitions under the act, and in one a health facility is any doctor's private

office. It may not be a licensed independent health facility, and I am sure the minister appreciates that fine distinction.

There are some other measures in this proposed legislation which we find somewhat disconcerting, to say the least.

Fortunately, this piece of legislation does have a provision for the appeal of a decision made by directors of independent health facilities, and we agree with that. However, the legislation also allows the minister to completely override the appeals process. The minister can decide to revoke a licence, not to grant a licence or in fact to come in and take over an independent health facility with no recourse of appeal whatsoever. The possibility is very real that a Minister of Health could decide for whatever reason, including his or her own personal beliefs or political reasons, to revoke or not grant a licence without any accountability whatsoever for that decision.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Eves: The vast majority of health professionals—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Eves:—across this province are aghast at granting such excessive power to the minister. Can the minister justify this power?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Mr. Speaker, to inform you and the members of this House, in the drafting of this Legislation there has been ongoing and continuous consultation: consultation with physicians, with nurses, with health professionals and consultation as well with the regulatory colleges responsible for discipline procedures in this province.

I can assure the member that as this bill proceeds through the legislative process, we are all concerned that the basic principles of this bill, which the bill was designed to achieve, should be responded to as we proceed through the legislative process, as I just mentioned.

He might find it interesting to note that this morning, at a seminar, the basic principles of this bill were supported and supported enthusiastically by members of the legal profession and by members of the health professions.

I look forward to that debate. I believe this is an important piece of legislation in the health history of this province.

Mr. Eves: I do not know where the minister is getting her information, but she must be very selective in whom she listens to about what happened this morning, because in fact there are some very real concerns among all kinds of

health care providers and on the legal aspect with respect to this particular piece of legislation. A couple of things the lawyers are concerned about are the points I just mentioned to the minister a few months ago.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary?

Mr. Eves: A third thing they are concerned about is that currently, under the Health Insurance Act, the Ontario health insurance plan covers all services rendered by physicians that are medically necessary. A complementary amendment in the Independent Health Facilities Act would amend this to read, "Such services... as are prescribed by the regulations."

What this means is that the Ministry of Health will now determine what is medically necessary, not physicians or medical professionals. Quite frankly, it scares me—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Eves: —to think that bureaucrats and not medical practitioners will now be determining what is medically necessary for patients. Will the minister withdraw this complementary amendment and ensure that all necessary medical services will be paid for by OHIP for the citizens of Ontario?

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Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The intention of this act is clear. I think the principles of this act will be debated over the course of the next few days, and I look forward to that debate in this Legislature, so that the final product will in fact achieve the objective of the act.

The objective of the act is to ensure that we have the same quality assurance and patient confidentiality presently available in hospital in community-based facilities and independent health facilities. We want to make sure we have a legislative framework that will allow us to fund insured services in this province in a manner which will allow for appropriate and good planning with the involvement of district health councils, and that we will have a system in place that will respond to the needs in the future as well as the needs we see today.

I want to thank the member for his question, because I believe that this legislation, the Independent Health Facilities Act, is indeed an important step as we proceed to make the changes necessary in Ontario health care.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Premier. This morning, the Coalition Against Open Sunday Shopping held a media conference in this

building. This group represents some three million Ontario residents. It claims that it has been trying to get a meeting with the Premier since March 21 and all to no avail.

Why is the Premier so afraid of the representatives of some three million residents of this province that he is refusing to meet with this group to allow it to present its views to him on Bill 113 and Bill 114?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very happy to meet with anybody, but there are the representatives of nine million people in this Legislature. Let's debate it in this Legislature.

Mr. Philip: Of the more than 300 submissions before the standing committee on administration of justice, 95 per cent were opposed to the local option which is the principle of Bill 113. Recent polls have shown that a majority of the population of this province is opposed to this legislation the government is trying to ram down the throats of the people of Ontario.

Why is the Premier not prepared to withdraw the legislation, meet with the various interest groups he has refused to meet and introduce legislation which is acceptable to the people of Ontario instead of this legislation, which is clearly not?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say without fear of contradiction that we have endless meetings. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has met, the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) has met, the member has met, the committee has met. My honourable friend speaks about polls; I would have thought that would be the last thing my honourable friend opposite would want to believe in today.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Harris: I would like to know if the Minister of Housing approves of a government of Ontario appointee to the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority board of directors intentionally turning over internal MTHA documents to a private company for its benefit while that company is involved in the tendering process for a Metro Toronto Housing Authority contract?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is up to the board of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority to indicate what the guidelines for appropriate behaviour are for other members of the board. If there are any

concerns about that, I think the board can resolve them internally.

Mr. Harris: Does the Minister of Housing, who is responsible for these appointments, who is responsible—surely she would agree—for the Metro Toronto Housing Authority, who is responsible for housing decisions that are being made in this province, approve of that type of action by a provincial appointee?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Let me clarify again for the member. The members of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority are appointed by three levels of government. Some are appointed by the province, some are appointed by the federal government and some are appointed by Metro Toronto. It is up to the board to work through what the guidelines are for them. It is up to the board members to come to a conclusion together about how they wish to proceed and what appropriate guidelines for behaviour are.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. D. R. Cooke: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The minister will no doubt be aware of the conclusions and recommendations of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, which spoke to the federal government's proposed Canada-US free trade agreement and the future of world trade.

The committee concluded, among other things, that the movement towards an internal European market by 1992 and the current General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, which are culminating in significant mid-term reviews in Montreal this December, raise important international trade issues for Ontario and require that the provinces be fully involved in the process.

The committee recommended that Ontario continue to make greater efforts to diversify our trade opportunities, thereby rejecting the federal government's overreliance on the North American market under free trade.

Can the minister assure the House that the provinces will be fully involved in the midterm review in Montreal?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure members of the House will be pleased to know that I have been invited by the federal government to be an official observer at the GATT midterm discussions which are taking place in Montreal December 5.

Before the meetings, we will also be meeting with my provincial counterparts and with the federal minister to make sure they are fully aware

of Ontario's concerns in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, services and any other areas that could impact on Ontario's economy.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Recently the Premier of the *länder* of Baden-Württemberg in the Federal Republic of Germany, the Honourable Lothar Späth, visited with the minister, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and other Ontarians as part of a follow-up of a memo of understanding between our two provinces. At the same time Baden-Württemberg's trade minister was travelling to Louisiana and Kentucky.

As the minister knows, the finance committee noted in its final report that under the proposed free trade agreement, if the federal government's trade deal were to be implemented, southern US jurisdictions, with their less stringent labour rules and lower social security costs, might seem more attractive than Ontario for investments such as Baden-Württemberg is considering.

Can the minister assure the House that efforts to strengthen ties with Baden-Württemberg will be an important aspect of Ontario's efforts to diversify our trade?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure you know, as all members should know, that we are twinned with Baden-Württemberg and we have a relationship which I think is going to be to our mutual benefit.

Premier-president Lothar Späth was here last month. He reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the ties between our two jurisdictions. My colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) led a Premier's Council committee to Baden-Württemberg. We are looking at a program which will exchange scientists, engineers and technicians, and I am convinced that we will both benefit from this initiative.

NURSING HOMES

Mr. Reville: My question is to the Minister of Health. A previous Minister of Health made much of the government's commitment to requiring nursing home operators to file detailed financial statements and to post those statements in nursing homes.

On May 25, 1987, when we had third reading of that bill, the minister said, "We will be working very hard with respect to the development of regulations to further enhance our ability to deal with difficulties." We still do not have any regulations and that makes us wonder what the government means when it says it is working very hard. Where are those regulations?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the member knows that the new Nursing Homes Act has gone a long way to ensure that residents of nursing homes actively participate in the quality-of-life provisions in those homes. I want him to know that I am committed to the principles of that act. I am aware that there are regulations which are under review at the present time within the ministry.

Mr. Reville: I asked this exact question in June of this last year so the minister could have a head start on getting on with some of this very serious work. As we can see, nothing has been done.

The minister may remember that the need for these financial disclosure statements is based on allegations which Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities and others have made that in private nursing homes residents often go without proper food and that, in fact, the delay in producing these regulations is continuing to put at risk the very people the minister claims to be so concerned about. I would like today to hear a date from the minister as to when we can expect to see those regulations. We have already lost the opportunity to see what the financial year was in 1987. Are we going to miss it for 1988 as well?

1430

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to assure the member that I take very seriously compliance with the Nursing Homes Act. If he or anyone else in this House has any allegations of wrongdoing in the nursing homes or contraventions of the act, I would ask that he notify me so that I can have the inspection branch investigate. I want him to know that it is my understanding that, in fact, postings are occurring. It is also my pleasure to inform him that the drafting of regulations is ongoing and is presently under review by the ministry.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: And you expect people to have confidence in the new Minister of Health with that kind of dumb answer? That's really dumb.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did not recognize the member for Windsor-Riverside.

CHILD CARE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister will recall that on October 24, 1988, my colleague the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) asked him about progress on the release of his promised discussion paper on a new Day Nurseries Act. In response to that very

legitimate question from my colleague, he made some reference to a lack of staff in his ministry.

The minister promised this discussion paper in his New Directions for Child Care. He promised it for the fiscal year 1988-89. Can the minister tell us the progress of this paper and when he anticipates its release?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My recollection of my response to that previous question was to the effect that, given the number of other initiatives we are working on at the present time, we have not spent as much time on the new legislation as we would like.

My second recollection is that within our New Directions document, which came into effect just a year ago, we would have the new legislation by the end of the first three-year period, which would be 1991 if I am not mistaken.

Mrs. Marland: The minister did say the prime reason was human resources and that he had been under "severe...criticism." I am quoting his answer from Hansard.

I was very pleased this morning to participate in the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care's meeting in the Ontario Room. As the minister knows, the issue of availability of subsidized spaces is a serious one and was the subject of some discussion at this morning's meeting. I could review the waiting list for the minister, but the thrust of my question on the Day Nurseries Act is not simply dealing with the problems of quantity; this question relates to quality.

While we grapple with the issue of quantity of spaces, I do not think we can let the issue of quality of service slip from the table. Will the minister give this House his assurance today that he will release either the discussion paper he promised or a draft of the Day Nurseries Act before we rise this Christmas?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I really wish I could say yes to that question, but I cannot, given the time line that the honourable member has defined for us. What I will clearly say to the honourable member and to all members of the House is that I would like this particular piece of legislation to be handled in a way similar to the Child and Family Services Act, where in fact a draft proposal was made available to all who were interested. We would have a series of hearings so that people could react to that draft proposal before the final legislation was put together.

I will certainly give her that commitment. If I am still minister at that time, I will give her that commitment, but I cannot give her that commitment prior to December.

I would also like to comment on the point that the honourable member made with respect to the element of quality, and that, again, is something that I tried to stress this morning. It is one of the things we have clearly said, along with new licensed spaces, along with additional subsidies, along with improving wages, that the quality and the legislation that is going to back up that quality are an essential component, and that has to be done as well as the others. The honourable member is right. The quality and legislative component is not a matter of numbers.

PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Elliot: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Reclamation Systems proposes to site, build, own and operate a solid-waste landfill facility in the United Aggregates Ltd. quarry near Acton. This proposed facility will accept municipal wastes and industrial non-hazardous solid wastes from an area that potentially may be province-wide.

Local citizens, along with Mayor Russ Miller and the local council of the town of Halton Hills, are opposed to this proposal. Can the minister assure the citizens that this proposal will be subject to the Environmental Assessment Act?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am aware of this proposal, although it is not one that has specifically reached my desk. I can assure the member that of course it would come under the Environmental Assessment Act and the full provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act.

I believe that our ministry officials have said at every public meeting that, in fact, this would be evaluated through the auspices of the Environmental Assessment Act. It is my understanding that the proponent is currently developing his draft environmental assessment document and that it is following the environmental assessment process. I know that has been a concern of the people in the area, the specific municipal officials, and of the member, of course, for Halton North. I give him the assurance that that will be the case.

Mr. Elliot: Local residents also want to ensure that the environmental assessment process is as detailed and thorough as possible. In particular, they are inquiring as to whether or not the level of detail required in an environmental assessment for a private proposal such as this one is adequate to protect the environment. Can the minister assure the House that a private company will have to meet the same requirements of the

Environmental Assessment Act as municipal bodies do?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If the case proceeds, for instance, to the Environmental Assessment Board, it is a requirement that they meet all of the details of the Environmental Assessment Act. When the board looks at these, it determines what has happened within a municipality. For instance, as the member would be aware, Halton has been involved in a very lengthy process at the present time and has two sites before the Environmental Assessment Board in a hearing. I would expect that that hearing will be over in the not-too-distant future and that the decision will be rendered when the Environmental Assessment Board has taken everything into consideration.

But in regard to this, that aspect of what has already been going on in Halton would be taken into consideration. They would also have to look at virtually every aspect of their proposal that they put before the board to satisfy the board. If they were not satisfied that they had gone through all the necessary procedures, then the board would very likely not look favourably upon any such proposal.

POST-POLIO SYNDROME CLINIC

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health. Last week I got a call from Anna-Marie Kennedy, who is 62 years old. She had polio in the 1950s, and her legs have been getting weaker all the time. The only facility that helps patients who have had polio and who have now something called post-polio syndrome is a clinic that operates out of the West Park Hospital, which happens to be in the constituency that I represent.

There is a long waiting list. It is the only facility of its kind in Canada. It applied to the ministry back in July 1987 for an operating grant of \$200,000, which would allow it to stay open full-time on a yearly basis. I wonder if the minister can tell us what she intends to do to make sure that this clinic, which, as I say, is the only one of its kind in Canada, is, in fact, allowed to operate on a full-time basis?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am aware of the facility that the Leader of the Opposition refers to. I am aware that it was begun two years ago as a pilot project. It has never received funding from the Ministry of Health. It was funded from other sources on a pilot basis. It is my understanding that the evaluation has not been completed. They did apply to the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council as a new program and were told at

that time, I believe, that the application was being reviewed.

1440

Mr. B. Rae: This facility will close in March 1989—that is what they have told us—unless in fact they can get funding to operate full-time. We are not talking about a huge capital cost. It operates out of the West Park facility, which is a marvellous rehabilitation hospital, as I am sure the minister is aware. We are not talking about a huge cost; we are talking about \$200,000 a year.

The concern I have about the district health council being the major source of the minister's information is that this is not simply a district need, this is an Ontario-wide need, and I might say a national need. There is no other facility in Canada that provides for those people who got polio prior to the distribution of the Salk vaccine in the 1950s. There are literally thousands of polio victims who are now entering their 50s and 60s, in some cases their 70s. There are many, many degenerative problems associated with polio. This facility is ideally suited to deal with them.

I wonder if the minister could at least undertake that she will—what shall I say?—advance the review so that we are all aware well before March 1989 precisely how this clinic can operate, not on a part-time basis, as it now does, with a long waiting list, but full-time, so it can serve the very real demand that is out there in the community.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I said, and for the information of the Leader of the Opposition, this clinic is not presently receiving ministry funding; it is being funded by the Ontario March of Dimes.

I can tell him as well that we have begun a research project in conjunction with this ailment. Some \$100,000 in research grants have been made available to a physician looking at this very medical problem.

I can tell him that I will of course be willing to consider this, along with other new and expanded program initiatives that are brought to the attention of the ministry.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs. Marland: I have a question of the Premier. A few days ago I asked him what the government's plans were for the Rouge, in view of the fact that the federal government had offered \$10 million towards its preservation and the general plea from Scarborough and the people across the province for its preservation. The Premier said at that time, "It is the

government's intention, and always has been, to preserve the Rouge."

When one speaks of the Rouge, we include the tablelands. Will the Premier confirm today what his government's intentions are? Will he preserve the Rouge or just the Rouge Valley, and what is his definition of "preservation"?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I told my honourable friend last time she asked me about this, we are looking at that entire quadrant with respect to Seaton and a variety of other things, and when we have it all organized we will tell her all about it.

Mrs. Marland: I am very encouraged that when the government has it all organized it will tell us all about it, because my next question is: Will the Premier deny today reports that I have received indicating that his government, within the last few days, has been discussing plans for a housing development in the Rouge with the private land holders?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think I indicated our intentions to the member last time we discussed this entire matter. The Rouge is a very large area. Various people have different definitions of the outside boundaries, and I understand that as well; but, as I said, it is being discussed in the context of the entire quadrant. In terms of our long-term planning, lots of things have to be done, and when all that is completed we will present it to the member for her views.

TEACHER TRAINING

Mr. Adams: My question is for the Minister of Education. I understand that many hundreds of students are applying for a few tens of places in our faculties of education. I am concerned that we take full advantage of this situation to recruit only the best possible future teachers. It seems to me that a policy of simply accepting students with an average of, say, 85 per cent or more is not a good way of identifying teaching ability. What are we doing to ensure that we are accepting the best possible future teachers in our faculties of education?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The question the member raises is indeed timely. We are at a point in the history of this province when there clearly will be a need for hundreds of additional teachers, as enrolment has now ended a 19-year state of decline. We are now getting increasing enrolment, which will extend over the course of the next eight years. With the many new initiatives within our system, there is no question that the focus will be on our faculties of education and the need to produce quality teaching professionals.

Recognizing this quite some time ago, the government put forward a proposal for a teacher education review committee with representatives from the faculties of education, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and boards of education as well as the professional teacher federations. The report of that committee is due in the very near future and, I am sure, will address many of the concerns the member raises.

Mr. Adams: I thank the minister for that. I am concerned about the quality of future teachers. He touched on it briefly. I do understand that in the next decade we are going to be facing shortages of teachers. What about the matter of quantity of teachers during the next decade?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Again, much has been said about a possible teacher shortage. I think it is important to note that the faculties of education in this province are still producing more teachers than the system can absorb in any given year. Where the difficulties arise is in specific areas of specialty. Currently there is in fact a shortage of French-language specialists. We expect that with the many new initiatives that this government has undertaken in elementary education, we will have to cope with a shortage of some primary and junior specialists as well. My colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) and I are monitoring the situation very carefully and we are prepared to deal with the situation, through the faculties of education, should the need arise.

ONTARIO DRUG BENEFIT PLAN

Mr. Allen: I have a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Sharleen Girouard of Ottawa is in a life-threatening situation. She suffers from epilepsy, cerebral palsy and bladder and bowel disorders that require or entail \$900 in monthly medical expenses. Despite assurances she was given when she married a husband who earned \$1,142 a month, she was cut off disability assistance and lost her drug card. Now, even with emergency help, the Girouards are surviving on one meagre meal a day and going into debt at the rate of \$228 a month just to keep her alive.

Will the minister not raise the income and asset ceilings that are necessary for drug benefit cards immediately and end the intolerable situation that these people are in? Why should Sharleen Girouard's life be put in danger by the mere fact that she wished to get married to Mr. Girouard?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The current legislation dealing with income assistance requires the assets and the income of the entire family unit to

be taken into consideration to determine whether a person could be eligible for assistance. When Mrs. Girouard got married, she became part of that larger family unit, and all of the assets and income of that unit were considered. That is the way the legislation is right now and that is the way it is applied.

However, there are two exceptions to that. The first one is, and I am sure the honourable member knows it, that there is a provision in our general welfare legislation for a person like Mrs. Girouard to apply for supplementary assistance at the local municipal level, which can be above and beyond what I just described. There is also a provision, through our ministry and through me as the minister, to apply for an order in council if there is an unusual set of circumstances that cannot be dealt with in any other way.

Finally, the honourable member may be aware of the fact that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) currently has a review going on with respect to the possibility of people other than those presently defined getting access to a drug card.

1450

Mr. Allen: If the Girouards have that access, then they have not been advised of it or their situation has not been improved. They have been given emergency assistance, but even so they are still in the situation that I described.

This is not a unique situation, as the minister probably knows, and I want to read briefly from the Thomson report, with his comments on the drug benefit situation and its problems.

"First...people"—as he says—"who leave social assistance are faced with a sudden loss of their drug benefits—functions for many as a disincentive to employment....Second, the working poor"—and this applies perhaps more to the Girouards present situation—"who do not qualify for special assistance can find purchasing necessary prescriptions extremely difficult if not impossible. As a result, the working poor may be worse off than social assistance recipients, who have drug benefit cards." That is their situation.

Will the minister not put in place immediately the recommendation that has been made by Mr. Thomson, namely that the Ontario drug benefit plan be extended to low-income people who do not receive social assistance, particularly people like the Girouards who have higher-than-average drug costs?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member is certainly correct when he draws attention to Mr. Thomson's report and his reference to the comparability between those who are on income

assistance and those who, as he refers to them, are the "working poor." That is perhaps one of the important contributions that report makes, among many others.

I certainly do not have any difficulty in accepting that premise. I would, however, repeat for the honourable member that the Minister of Health is currently reviewing the application of drug benefit cards to other than those who currently qualify for them. It would be my hope that at some point in time when Mrs. Girouard does not continue to get the kind of supplementary assistance that she is now getting, that a new program, in fact, would be in place.

POST-POLIO SYNDROME CLINIC

Mr. Eves: I have another question for the Minister of Health, taking up on the question that was asked by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) a few moments ago about the post-polio clinic at West Park Hospital. The minister will be aware that there are an estimated 5,000 post-polio patients in Ontario. If this clinic—which, I grant it, up to now has operated as a pilot project on private funding—is forced to close down at the end of February, 1989, in a few short months, these patients are going to have to go to the United States of America and elsewhere for treatment and, in return, the Ontario taxpayer and the Ontario health insurance plan are going to end up paying for the cost of treatment elsewhere.

Would the minister seriously consider whether it would not be more beneficial, both for the taxpayers of Ontario and, most important, for the post-polio patients, to have them treated here by a clinic that has proven itself to be successful right here in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to assure the honourable member opposite as well as the Leader of the Opposition that, in fact, those are the kinds of criteria that we will be taking into consideration when we look at new or expanded programs and that this is one of the programs that we will consider at that time.

Mr. Speaker: That completes oral questions and responses.

PETITIONS

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Mr. Fleet: I have a petition which has been signed by approximately 230 people, mostly in Ontario, about five of whom live in my riding. It says:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the crown in the province of Ontario continues a lengthy, futile and expensive prosecution against the Church of Scientology; and

"Whereas at no time in recorded history has an entire church been charged with a criminal offence for the actions of individuals, and freedom of religion in the province is at risk; and

"Whereas the alleged offences occurred over a decade ago and those responsible have been expelled from the church or rehabilitated,

"We petition the Attorney General and the government of Ontario to withdraw the charges against the church and end this prosecution."

Mr. Beer: I have a petition which is similar to the one just presented, signed by some 300 members of the Church of Scientology; and I will dispense with the reading of it, as it has already been read out.

MOTIONS

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding any previous order of the House, in the committee of supply, the estimates of the Ministry of Health be considered for 13 hours following the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the following substitutions be made: on the standing committee on regulations and private bills, Mr. Leone for Mrs. Stoner; on the standing committee on resources development, Mrs. Stoner for Mr. Leone.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INDEPENDENT HEALTH FACILITIES ACT

Hon. Mrs. Caplan moved second reading of Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities.

Mr. Speaker: Would the minister have any opening comments?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is well recognized that in this province we have one of the finest health care systems in the world. To maintain excellence, we must plan for change and we must be prepared to adopt and adapt for future needs and priorities.

We have seen and we continue to see in this province the development of new health professions, expanding roles for traditional care providers and we see new advances in health promotion and disease prevention. These changes have been accompanied by what can only be described as a massive technological explosion in health care sciences. In recent years, there have been major breakthroughs in drug therapies and surgical procedures. We have witnessed a continuing revolution in diagnostic services and equipment, and sophisticated new techniques in patient care and assessment are now commonplace. As a result of these developments, concerns are being expressed about how to meet future health and health care needs.

I believe the Ministry of Health has a responsibility to show leadership in directing these currents of change, leadership that will result in effective health care for the people of this province. It was with this objective in mind that last June I introduced the Independent Health Facilities Act. Today I am moving a motion that Bill 147 proceed to second reading by this House.

The Independent Health Facilities Act will allow our province to regulate and develop community-based health facilities where many of the medical services usually carried out in hospitals may be performed. This act is part of my ministry's commitment to improve both the level and quality of health care in Ontario and to create a positive shift in the way health services are offered and provided to the people of Ontario.

During the past year, I have travelled extensively throughout this province. During my travels, I made a point of bringing together district health council members, hospital boards and other providers of care. I did this because, to my mind, the whole range of health services in any given community or district must be seen as interrelated and interconnected, as a part of the continuum of care that we offer.

I have had the opportunity in many communities to discuss my vision, my vision of the future, and that vision for the future is this: equity of access to effective, quality health care, the very best that we can afford, as close to home as possible. I believe from discussions I have had in communities throughout the province that this vision is widely shared.

If we are to realize this vision, then we must begin now to create the positive shifts that will move us in the direction that we want to move, and in a planned, orderly and rational fashion. The decisions we make over the next five to 10

years will be crucial ones for the health care future of this province.

1500

Health care as we know it today is being challenged by economic, demographic and technological forces, three irresistible forces for change, forces for change that demand we come up with new answers: how to manage our precious health resources with the finances available to us, how to provide care and support for our growing elderly population and their needs and how to use, and use effectively, the great technological advances that are now available to us. These are the challenges our government is addressing.

With the great variety of talents and abilities available to us in this province, I believe we have an obligation to the people of Ontario to point the way to a compassionate health care future. The creation of the Premier's Council on Health Strategy reflects our government's commitment at the highest level to bring thoughtful, planned and managed change to the way health services are provided in this province. We also have the benefit of three recent studies, the Evans, Spasoff and Podborski reports, that give us a blueprint for future priorities.

Three basic assumptions underlie each of these documents: (1) health services must be more closely focused and integrated at the community level with more co-operation among care providers, care facilities and the professions; (2) health is understood not to be just the absence of disease, but the whole state of physical, mental and social wellbeing, and (3) good health means not only access to good health care, but reaches out to include such areas as housing, social services and environmental protection.

As we now move forward with this plan, it is important to recognize that we have already taken major steps during this time of transition to realize our vision of the future. Last year, Ontario's nursing home legislation was amended and new funding arrangements with nursing homes were agreed upon. With these actions, the rights of nursing home residents were enshrined in law, nursing homes were made strictly accountable for their financial affairs, staff training and development were strengthened and the quality of care for nursing home residents was improved.

This past summer, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made the commitment to see a doubling of the number of people served in community health centres and health service organizations in this province. Recently, I was pleased to announce

four new community health centres will soon be opening. Before the end of the year, I expect to receive the proposals of the health professions legislation review, proposals for a new omnibus bill that will expand the number of self-governing health professions, effectively regulate the scope of practice for each profession and make the professions more accountable to the public they serve. Indeed, the overall objective of the health professions legislation review is to provide greater protection to the public interest.

The Public Hospitals Act was also recently amended to make utilization committees mandatory in all hospitals in Ontario, so that hospital resources will be used more effectively and the quality of care improved for patients. To assist Ontario hospitals improve their quality assurance procedures, the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Medical Association and my ministry have jointly co-operated to produce the Guide for Hospital Utilization Review and Management in Ontario, which was published in mid-October.

Further regulatory changes will be undertaken to clarify the roles and responsibilities of hospital boards and administrators and to provide greater management involvement for health professionals, especially nurses. I should point out that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower recently cited job satisfaction as being one of the principal issues facing the nursing profession.

Most important, we intend to move ahead with a full examination and review of the Public Hospitals Act to give Ontario hospitals a modern legislative framework, a framework that reflects their operating environment, the mix of professions and technical staff in the modern hospital setting and the types of care hospitals are expected to provide.

I believe we are well on the way to realizing a new vision for health care in this province and I believe the Independent Health Facilities Act is one of the key building blocks in achieving our goal. This proposed legislation is a pioneer effort being undertaken in Ontario. It represents the first legislative approach in Canada for the comprehensive provision of community-based health care services.

During the framing of the Independent Health Facilities Act, there have been extensive consultations with physicians, nurses, hospital administrators and others. Consultations on the new legislation are continuing. Today, the Canadian Institute of Law and Medicine, an organization of representatives from major health provider associations and the legal community, is meeting

in conference to discuss the bill with nearly 400 participants registered. I understand that during this morning's session there was a uniform endorsement of the principles behind this legislation.

In bringing this legislation forward, we have three broad objectives: to develop a more community-based health care system to ensure that patients receive quality medical care as close to home as possible; that the procedures are carried out in a safe, effective manner; and to regulate facilities so that they are appropriately located and established in a planned way.

One of the great advantages promoted by this legislation is that patients will be able to undergo many surgical and investigative procedures without being admitted to hospital. With continuing advances in technology, the number and types of procedures able to be performed in community settings will only increase.

While this legislation lays the groundwork for enhanced community-based health care, our objective is to complement, not to de-emphasize, the role of hospitals. What we want to see is the freeing up of hospitals to do what they do best: provide the patient care and the patient care services that require a hospital setting.

Before any community facility is licensed, however, there must be a demonstrated need for the service or for the range of services to be provided. The usual procedure in applying for a licence will be as follows: A local district health council, community group or medical group will define a need and recommend to the minister that a facility be established; or the ministry may identify a need and then ask one or more of the district health councils to respond with recommendations. If after review the minister agrees that health care and the public interest criteria have been met by the recommendation, the ministry will issue a call for proposals which clearly set out the type of services to be offered. District health councils will review the proposals received, rank the order of priority and make recommendations to the minister. The minister will then choose a proposal based on merit, and the successful applicant will develop the facility.

I should point out that this legislation clearly specifies that in granting licences for community-based facilities, the ministry will give preference to Canadian and not-for-profit groups.

Let me address this last point for just a moment. Every member in this House recognizes that Canadians and all Ontarians feel strongly about universal health care. We are proud,

indeed we might say even possessive, about the quality and the level of health care available to everyone in this province, available without regard to a citizen's financial or economic circumstances.

Canadians have proved to the world that government-funded health care can be successful and equitable. We have built a national consensus in this country that health care is not just another commodity to be traded in the marketplace. We believe health care is an essential resource that is vital to the wellbeing of our society.

In maintaining a market model for health care, our American neighbours have done so at a tremendous cost. Today, US health care costs are far higher than they are in Canada: 10.8 per cent of its gross national product versus Canada's 8.6 per cent. Yet we see gross deprivations in care for much of the US population and the threat of financial bankruptcy in the event of catastrophic illness. The Ontario government is determined to protect our uniquely Canadian way of health care delivery.

1510

In granting licences to facilities, the ministry may enter into a variety of funding arrangements. For example, facilities may be funded on a global basis with operating costs, professional fees and medical equipment purchases included; or the ministry may agree to pay a facility fee—in other words, the overhead and operating costs of providing a service—while leaving the physicians free to bill the Ontario health insurance plan for their professional services.

With respect to the issue of quality assurance, the act requires any licensed facility to establish an appropriate method for monitoring, in a manner acceptable to the ministry, the care and treatment it provides. The ministry is also empowered to designate assessors and inspectors to ensure quality of care. Both assessors and inspectors will be governed by the secrecy requirements of section 30 of the act as well as by the patient confidentiality provisions of the professional governing bodies to which they belong. Physician assessors, for example, will be subject to the regulations of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Nursing assessors will be subject to the regulations of the College of Nurses of Ontario.

I recognize that despite the stringent confidentiality provisions already contained in section 30, a number of concerns have been expressed about access to medical and facility records by assessors or inspectors. In response to these

concerns, discussions are going on with the college of physicians and surgeons and will include the other regulatory colleges as well, so that inspection protocols and procedures will be developed to strengthen even more the patient confidentiality provisions of this legislation.

I look forward to our discussions as this bill moves forward through the legislative process. As we approach the 20th anniversary of universal health care in Canada, it is my conviction that we must once again rediscover the sense of determination, the political and social will out of which Canadian health care was created.

I believe the Independent Health Facilities Act is an important piece of legislation. It is important to make the best use of proven technology, to plan and manage more effectively the distribution of services, to protect our Canadian values in health care and, most important, to ensure high standards of effective quality care.

The Independent Health Facilities Act gives us the opportunity to join together to usher in a new era of health care for our province. I hope this legislation will receive strong support from all members in this House.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am sorry I did not hear the entire speech of the minister, but it was my understanding, as we set the legislative agenda and discussed it over the last couple of weeks among House leaders, that the focus of this entire week was to be on the government's legislative approach to free trade. Certainly I am astounded that the minister has gone through her entire comments and made absolutely no reference at all to free trade and how this particular piece of legislation impinges on that issue.

I strongly suspect that what has happened here is that the government has reviewed this piece of legislation, plus another bill that we are going to be dealing with later this week—the legislation that authorizes the exportation of water, even though the government says it is a bill to stop the exportation of water—and has found the same kinds of difficulties with this legislation. I would like the minister to respond specifically to that concern.

I would also like to ask the minister specifically what effect this bill is going to have on the privatization of health care across this province. One of the major concerns many of us have had is that what this bill really does is to regulate and then accept privatization in our health care system, which we have seen in the nursing home field. There is absolutely no financial accountability at all. As soon as the government got its

majority, it decided not to proceed with the financial disclosure of profit-and-loss statements, which was approved by the Legislature over a year ago in the amendments to the Nursing Homes Act. We have some very real concerns and people in this province who want to see health care in the not-for-profit sector have some very real concerns that I do not think have been set aside or settled by the minister's comments or by this piece of legislation at all.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In my opening remarks, and also in previous discussions in this House, I have stated very clearly that the government of Ontario is determined to protect our uniquely Canadian way of delivering health care services. I have stated very clearly and the legislation states very clearly that, notwithstanding any federal trade agreement, we would show preference for nonprofit Canadian proposals as we move forward with the Independent Health Facilities Act.

Mr. Reville: I want, first, to acknowledge that this is a special moment for the minister. I believe this is the first piece of legislation she has carried for the government in her capacity as Minister of Health. I believe as well that it may be the first piece of legislation she has carried since she has been a minister of the crown. It must be an exciting and fascinating experience for her and, as I think about the process through which this piece of legislation will go, the minister will no doubt have an opportunity to grapple with some of the concerns people will express about the legislation, and perhaps will see fit to introduce a number of government amendments thereto and to entertain amendments that will surely be put by me and, I expect, by my colleague the representative of the Progressive Conservative Party.

That brief, friendly kind of comment having been dispensed with, let me now become mean and vicious and begin to shred Bill 147 into the very tiny pieces it should be shredded into.

The minister has talked about a new era of health care and, of course, we have heard over and over and over again from this Liberal government, not only in the 33rd Parliament but to date in the 34th Parliament, that we are entering a new era of health care in the province and that this is the government that will take us there and begin to change some of the ways in which health care has traditionally been delivered, which traditions are under severe attack, mainly by this government.

The minister has also said, as she leaves the chamber, that she looks forward to our discus-

sions as this bill moves forward through the legislative process. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will forgive me if I suggest that I think it is entirely possible that this is the last day on which we will ever discuss this bill. It may be unknown to you, but the bill is not scheduled for further discussion this week, nor do we have any indication that it is going to be scheduled for discussion at any other time. Even if it were to be scheduled for discussion, in any event we do not imagine that this bill will be dealt with in public hearings before February or March, and it clearly will not be back in the Legislature until the spring session.

If past performance gives us criteria by which to judge this government, and being mindful of the fact that the minister has said that further regulatory changes will be undertaken, and being mindful of the fact, as well, that Bill 147 will involve stacks of regulations, let me predict that, supposing this bill were to pass some time in May 1989, then in November 1990 I would be standing in the House asking the Minister of Health where the regulations to go with Bill 147 are, because that is precisely the experience we have had with respect to the Nursing Homes Act, passed in May 1987. Here we are in November 1988: not a sign of the regulations anywhere to be found.

1520

It is called a pioneering piece of legislation. I suppose it is a pioneering piece of legislation. There is indeed no legislation like this anywhere in Canada, and I certainly hope there never will be, because it is a very vague piece of legislation that purports to do a lot of things that we cannot imagine it will really do.

In fact, I think it is possible that this is not a pioneering piece of legislation but is, in fact, an old trick that is often employed by governments, has often been employed in the past and, I guess, will be employed often in the future. For various kinds of time-limited political reasons, a piece of legislation will come forward, there will be lots of huffing and puffing about it, there will be trains of rhetoric attached to it and then, once that moment passes, it will never be seen again. In fact, the train of rhetoric will just chuff off into the horizon and we will all wonder where it went.

Clearly, the time-limited event that is important in this connection, and may be behind the government's decision to introduce this piece of legislation, is the national debate that is under way about what kind of economic relationship this country wants to have with the United States. This is one of the alleged anti-free-trade bills that

the government of Ontario has tried to bamboozle the citizens of Ontario into believing is a serious defence of Ontario's interests against the Mulroney-Reagan free trade deal. I submit that if this is what we are counting on for our defence, we are in a lot of trouble.

In addition to suggesting that this will preserve our uniquely Canadian health care system, the government has suggested that the bill is necessary to ensure community-based health care. I cannot see any evidence that that is the case. In fact, I think the minister often confuses the geographical location of a particular facility with a much more emotional, organizational and ideological meaning of the word "community-based", that cannot be described by merely saying a facility is located in the community on a particular street. That clearly is not what "community-based" means. "Community-based" means that the community has a role in shaping the thrust, objectives and mission of a particular facility. Merely moving a facility out of a hospital and on to my street does not make that a community health centre; that makes it a hospital on my street.

Having said that, I do not think Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities, challenges the free trade agreement; I do not think Bill 147 ensures community-based health care; I do not think it provides an expanded role for community health centres and health service organizations; I do not think it ensures the provision by nonprofit operations of health care; I do not think it ensures access to abortion services; I do not believe that it results in the better use of health care resources, which makes you wonder what it does at all.

I notice that some pages were nodding, wondering themselves what this bill is going to do.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: They're nodding off, David.

Mr. Keyes: They're nodding because of your speech.

Mr. Reville: Oh, no. The pages we have here are so polite, they would manage to keep their eyes open even while sound asleep, and you should too.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They get docked pay if they don't.

Mr. Reville: That is right.

I just wanted to take members of the Legislature on a little trip down memory lane for a moment to indicate why I have real doubt about the government's real interest in seeing this bill

move forward, and perhaps to compare a previous government's activity in health legislation with the current government's activity. It really is quite dramatically different. Some of the members I see in the Legislature this afternoon will indeed remember most of this and a couple of them will not because they were not here then. This will be helpful to them.

If you ever have a chance, Mr. Speaker, you might want to refer to your indices that describe the legislative program undertaken during the 33rd Parliament. In fact, there is this handy section right at the front of your index that describes the government bills, private bills and private members' public bills. One can see that during the accord period, that period of pioneering, if you will, which some of us will probably not undertake again and some of us may not have an opportunity to undertake again, that in fact there was quite an aggressive legislative program. That, of course, was because there was an actual written document that committed the government to introducing legislation to deal with a number of identified problems in a number of identified areas.

Of course, the most dramatic piece of health legislation that this province has seen for many years was Bill 94, An Act regulating the Amounts that Persons may charge for rendering Services that are Insured Services under the Health Insurance Act, sometimes called the Health Care Accessibility Act. That was one of the key items in the accord that was signed by the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party of Ontario for action within the parliament.

That bill was introduced and debated for a very long period of time over the first year of that very unusual parliament and it was finally passed into law in June 1986 after an all-night debate. My colleagues and I immediately travelled to Hamilton, flushed with victories that we do not see repeated often enough—although we were quite cheerful about the victory in Welland-Thorold on Thursday; we look forward to lots more bye-elections to keep our string running. In fact, this Legislature did pass Bill 94, getting rid of extra-billing. We happened to be having our biannual convention at the time, and it was an amazing feeling for me, and I know for my colleagues, having fought against extra-billing for many years, finally to have achieved the end of extra-billing. But let me tell members what then happened.

We passed the legislation. We finally dragged the Liberal government, kicking and screaming, into the 20th century so that it abandoned its

policy of saying that extra-billing was a safety valve and finally agreed that it was something that should stop. We find that the 34th Parliament sees a much less aggressive government and a much less aggressive Minister of Health, so that more than two years later, he minister is finally saying the doctors who do extra-bill will finally be called to account for that.

1530

To talk about a new era of health care, would you not know that in the meantime a new invention has arrived? The new invention that has arrived is called the administrative fee, where a significant number of physicians are requiring that their patients plunk down cash to pay for "uninsured services." We have heard time and time again from the Ministry of Health and its succeeding ministers that they were going to deal with the question of administrative fees, they were going to take this up with the Ontario Medical Association and do something about it. Of course, nothing has been done about it.

There was another interesting health initiative. This was not an initiative that was encouraged by my party, but it was something that came forward during the 33rd Parliament. Those were Bill 54, An Act to Authorize and Regulate the Payment by the Minister to Specified Persons on Behalf of Specified Classes of Persons for the Dispensing of Specified Drugs, and Bill 55, An Act to provide for the Protection of the Public in respect of the Cost of Certain Prescription Drugs.

Those bills were given royal assent during the second session of the 33rd Parliament and at the end of a very long series of public hearings, through which my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) sat transfixed and which I was able to join on a number of occasions, in which the messiest and sloppiest piece of government legislation that had been seen in these environs for many years was put on the table. It involved literally hundreds of government amendments to Bills 54 and 55 because they were such sloppy draftspersons.

The final upshot of those two pieces of legislation is that, among other things, the cost of dispensing fees has gone through the ceiling. Basically, what the government did to protect the taxpayers of Ontario was to tell pharmacies that they could charge virtually anything they wanted to dispense a prescription, so we are now getting stories of a drug that has the value of 17 cents being dispensed at a dispensing fee of \$9.50, so that the total prescription cost is \$9.67. This is the consequence of Bills 54 and 55.

The pharmacist is indeed required to post the dispensing fee, and I am sure you have seen this with your own eyes, Mr. Speaker: There is a kind of little cubicle behind which the pharmacist stands and there are all sorts of things kind of stuck up on the walls of the cubicle, advertisements for valium and birth-control tests and what not, and somewhere in among all this paper is the dispensing fee noted. The requirement on the pharmacist is to post this fee, but it does not have to have any relationship to what some kind of reasonable cost would be.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is for all the counselling they provide.

Mr. Reville: Yes. It is interesting the counselling they provide when they actually hand over a prepackaged medicine and then hook somebody \$9.50 for that pleasure.

Anyway, those were Bills 54 and 55 and we were really glad when that process was over, but we certainly were not happy about the result, because it was a very unfortunate result for the people who are buying drugs.

Of course, if one wanted to undertake an initiative in respect to drugs in Ontario, it would not have been to worry about what the best available price was but to worry much more about who was being prescribed what and why people in Ontario are overmedicated to an extent that is unparalleled anywhere in the world. Of course, the response to that concern has been yet another commission that will report, I am sure, in a year or so. All the while, of course, the government could have been taking action on the recommendations made by its own advisory committee, the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee, which the government carefully ignores.

There were a number of legislative initiatives in respect of the Mental Health Act during the 33rd Parliament. In fact, were it not for the seriousness of that legislation and the potential impact of such legislation on people, one would have had to spend several months giggling—I was almost going to say maniacally, but perhaps in this context that would be inappropriate—but the behaviour of the government of Ontario in its work on the Mental Health Act was laughable in the extreme.

Members who were in the 33rd Parliament will remember that a major initiative of this government and all governments in Canada was to take a look at its body of legislation and to ensure that legislation was in conformity with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the federal legislation.

That was done in Ontario through Bill 7. The debate in this Legislature was centred on the question of sexual orientation and the Human Rights Code, but in fact the bulk of Bill 7, the vast majority of Bill 7, had to do with the Mental Health Act.

The reason there were so many amendments required to the Mental Health Act was that our Mental Act, prior to Bill 7, was extremely offensive to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and consequently extremely offensive to the rights of individuals who live in Ontario.

My then colleague the member for Ottawa Centre, who regrettably is not with us any longer following an event on September 10, 1987, moved a great many amendments to Bill 7, not just respecting sexual orientation, although we were proud to move that amendment, but also respecting the rights of people who happen to find themselves labelled mentally ill and incarcerated in institutions in Ontario.

Those amendments were prepared with the assistance of civil rights advocates and lawyers and self-help groups and were not supported, I might add, by the government of Ontario but were supported, thankfully, by those now in the third party. At that time they were in the second party; I hope there is no connection there exactly.

In fact, when those amendments came forward to the Legislature for third reading, they were masked to some extent by the concern expressed in this Legislature about matters of sexual orientation.

Bill 7 was finally passed. At that point, a great shout of dismay went up. The shout of dismay was the shout of anguished members of the Ontario Psychiatric Association, who said, "Wait a minute; you can't do such a thing. You've now tied our hands and you've tied our feet and we cannot in fact treat people in Ontario. You can't allow Bill 7 to stand."

This threw the government of Ontario into such a tizzy. You would not believe the scurrying around as the representative of the Ontario Medical Association appeared and, immediately, all the senior mandarins from the pink palace danced attendance on the representative of the OMA and draftspersons were set immediately to work. The scratching of the quill pens was deafening in Ontario following the passage of Bill 7, because the government began to introduce, in a frenzy of paper, bill after bill after bill to try to accommodate the concerns of about three psychiatrists who operate in the province.

It was amazing, the kind of fearmongering that was undertaken by this government when the Minister of Health of that time stood up in this House and talked about thousands of people every month being subjected to forced treatment orders. He said the impact of Bill 7 would be to leave the hospitals clotted and clogged with untreatable people and perhaps people beating down the doors of the Legislature because they were not able to receive some treatment that somebody thought they should have.

So a number of bills were introduced. The government managed this exercise so badly that it had to keep reintroducing bills because the time lines in the bills were not appropriate. So we got, as I say, a flurry of legislation all dealing with one section of Bill 7.

The upshot of it was that Bill 190 did pass in the end, as well as a number of bills which were called, humiliatingly for the government, the mental health amendment amendment amendment act. We try not to crow too long or too loud about such things, but it really is tempting to wonder what kind of a government you are dealing with when you have to bring in a bill to change the date of the previous bill, which changed the date of the previous bill, even while a fourth bill is in public hearings and discussing very serious matters.

As it turned out, of course, again I am grateful that the government accepted a significant number of amendments which I had moved to Bill 190, so that we ended up with probably the best Mental Health Act in Canada, although that had not been the intention of this government in the beginning.

I have mentioned already another piece of legislation which received third reading on May 25, 1987. Of course, that was the Nursing Homes Amendment Act, a very large part of which was written by my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside. Those were the days when, in fact, a good idea coming from a member of the opposition had some chance of finding its way into legislation because of the fortuitous arrangement of numbers around here.

The member for Windsor-Riverside was successful in getting a bill of rights put into the Nursing Homes Act and successful in requiring that act to require nursing home operators to file full financial statements, a matter about which I was questioning the minister just a bit earlier today in the question period show, and to which I got such unsatisfactory answers; notwithstanding that this minister and this government continually pat themselves on the back for having included

a bill of rights for nursing home patients in the Nursing Homes Act when, of course, nothing could have been farther from their intention.

Basically, they were under a political hammer at the time. It was the intervention of the member for Windsor-Riverside, who was then a very brilliant Health critic for our party. He managed to convince the majority that a nursing home bill of rights was necessary. That is why we have one today.

There were a number of other pieces of health legislation, one of which was introduced by a member of the now third party. I think it was the then member for Rainy River who introduced the bill under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, according to which a person who would administer an immunization, give a shot to somebody, would have to actually advise that somebody what the risks entailed by such immunization would be. I think that was called Bill 52, if I remember rightly. I can certainly look it up because we want the record to be absolutely exact.

Yes, Bill 52, An Act to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act. It got first and second readings in the first session of the 33rd Parliament and third reading and royal assent. It is not very often that we get a private member's bill that gets royal assent around here. I am happy to say I have one but it was not about health; it was about something else. That was Jack Pierce. I think Jack Pierce was the member for Rainy River at the time.

In fact, the ink was not even dry on the signature of the Lieutenant Governor on this bill when the phone rang again. The phone rang in the pink palace and Hershell picked it up and, goodness gracious, it is Hugh Scully on the phone saying: "What have you done now? Look at this Bill 52. You have to change it." Back again went the legislative draftspersons and those quill pens again began to kick up quite a racket because, of course, the government again had been asleep at the switch and it had to come back with another bill or Hugh Scully was going to have a temper tantrum. So we get yet another Health Protection and Promotion Act bill from the government that says much the same thing only in words that came from the silver lips and the golden throat of Hugh Scully. That was produced and passed.

However, in September, by regulation of the cabinet of Ontario, did it not suspend the guts of the very bill it was at such pains to have replace the previous bill? It suspended the section that requires the doctor in the nursing home to get

consent and to provide information to the people of the nursing home if those people are not competent to make decisions.

Why was that? Because the phone rang in the pink palace and here was Harvey Nightingale saying: "Hershell, what have you done now? We have people in nursing homes and the doctors won't give them a shot because they can't be told what the dangers of this vaccination are. This is a terrible situation." Hershell said: "Never mind. I will get the cabinet to suspend the regulations under this section of the Health Protection and Promotion Act so that everybody can have their shot and the doctors will not be guilty of an assault."

Why is this necessary? Because this very same Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) who wants to take us into a new era of health care cannot get it together to deal with the whole question of substitute decision-making and mental incompetency. She has slowed down to a grinding halt the Fram report, the O'Sullivan report, the Manson report, the McKague report and the Weisstub report. Fortunately, I have only five fingers on that hand, Mr. Speaker, but do not worry, I have other fingers and I have toes. I can rhyme off some more reports for you double quick.

This same government, which cannot get it together to provide any regulations to require financial disclosure for nursing home operators, managed to put through a regulation under the Public Hospitals Act which I think is quite patently as idiotic as some of the other desperate stories I have been telling so far today. That deals with, again, the failure of this government to come to grips with the question of people who are vulnerable, who cannot make decisions on their own behalf, and the Public Hospitals Act designates the public trustee in a way which I do not think will stand up in any court, whether that be a court in Killaloe or a court here in Toronto. We will have to see what happens when these regulations get their test.

1550

I think that is probably enough history of health legislation. I am sure members are all in some despair at the thought of being protected by the government of Ontario, at least through its legislative history and approach. I hope there are some human activities that can carry on without benefit of health legislation, particularly from this government.

I think among the things that are pretty clear is that Bill 147 indicates that this government, this Ministry of Health and this minister have no plan or program to expand or develop community-

based health care, and no plan on how to ensure access to high-quality abortion services, for instance, about which the minister was strangely and ominously silent. I think what it indicates is that the government is content to leave it to the operation of the marketplace to develop service.

The bill does not prohibit for-profit health care. If the government wanted to prohibit for-profit health care, it could do so. I think this bill could as easily lead to a proliferation of publicly funded commercial health enterprises. In fact, one of the dangers I and my party would fear the most is that public dollars will go for private gain in a health industry that is just waiting for this opportunity.

There is no question that the uniquely Canadian health care system the minister described in her opening remarks is not as uniquely Canadian as she would have us believe, nor as we would hope; that, in fact, there already is a significant penetration of the commercial sector into our health care system. The commercial sector already dominates the health services market outside of institutions and is best positioned to take advantage of the proposal calls this bill envisages being made.

When you combine that fact with a government that continues to look for ways to contain or shift the burden of health care expenditures, it means to me that the preference expressed in the legislation for nonprofit proposals carries little or no weight at all. The bill assumes, and I think it assumes profoundly incorrectly, that nonprofit and commercial entities compete on an equal footing. The bill does not say anything about what a preference for nonprofit proposals might mean, nor, for that matter, if we want to wrap ourselves in the Canadian flag, does it specify what a preference for Canadian proposals might mean.

One would think that if the government were serious about putting in the legislation a preference that had some oomph to it, it could have said that there might be a 20 per cent cost preference, that we are going to give an incentive saying, "Okay, your nonprofit proposal can cost 20 per cent more than a profit proposal and we'll give it to you because we're so interested in a nonprofit agency running these services."

The minister says she wants to expand community-based services, including those provided by community health centres and health service organizations, with this bill. There is nothing in the bill that expands community health centres and health service organizations and there is nothing to develop or to facilitate the

development of other community-based non-profit services. For example, the bill does not say anything about capital or startup assistance, it does not stipulate that physicians in new facilities go on salary or on capitation and there is nothing about community boards or accountability to local communities.

Those things would have been easy to include in the bill and would have given more of a ring of truth to some of the claims that have been made by the government for this bill, and I suspect the government is as interested in having its statements ring true as anybody else would be. I think it is worrisome that those kinds of criteria do not appear anywhere in the bill.

There is no question that many of us would approve of initiatives that would take services out of hospitals, where they are quite often provided at very high cost, and provide them in a community-based setting in those cases where they would have a lower cost and be services that are appropriately delivered in the community. The Association of Community Health Centres certainly approves of a movement in that direction; however, it does not see very much in this bill for community health centres and health service organizations.

Community health centres and health service organizations provide ongoing care, whereas the independent health facilities are strictly procedure-oriented. An independent health facility might perform laser surgery on your eye, for instance, and I think that is probably an appropriate kind of procedure to provide in an independent health facility. Indeed, there are such facilities operating as we speak.

CHCs—that is, community health centres—I might point out for the benefit of members who are not as steeped in some of the funding arrangements as I am, operate on a global budget and health service organizations operate on what we call capitation, which means that the health service organization receives an annual fee based on the age and sex of the member of the health service organization. For instance, a 21-year-old man or woman has a fee attributed to him or her that is significantly lower annually than the fee attributed to someone who is 92 and would be expected to require more health services than the younger person. That is what a health service organization is.

The growth of health service organizations and community health centres in Ontario has been snail-like. While I am pleased that in recent days and weeks the minister has announced a couple or three new community health centres—

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is four.

Mr. Reville: I am reminded it is four. The government's goal in this respect—

Mr. D. R. Cooke: If re-elected we'll have coffee in the Legislature.

Mr. Reville: What if that is not coffee? There are many points to ponder as we go through our daily lives. In any event, if I can interrupt my colleague for a second here and get on with my fascinating speech, the goal that the government has set for itself in respect of community health is a tiny and, I would submit, unworthy goal: to double, over five years, the number of people served thereby, which would take us up to four per cent—I think that is right—of the population being served in that way, and that is just not enough.

1600

I want to make a few comments about abortion services. I want to make these comments because nobody I can find ever wants to talk about abortion services in this country. I do not quite know why that is. There is no question that there is a lot of debate around those issues. There is no question that there should be debate about those issues. There is also no question that in Ontario, in spite of the rhetoric of the government, there has been no attempt to deal with the gaps in the services. I think it is necessary that we just say a few things about it.

The minister has said more than once, "We have been saying for some time now that we are committed to the provision of reasonable access to the women of this province to needed health services." She said in December 1987, "We are reviewing proposals from centres and hospitals across this province to meet the needs right across the province." In the ensuing months and weeks, the government announced four women's health care centres, one of which had nothing to do with the provision of abortion services at all.

I think Bill 147 indicates that the government has no plans to ensure abortion services across the province. When the bill was tabled, I think the minister said she had no intention to license any free-standing clinics beyond the two that existed. Of course, in the meantime, a third free-standing abortion clinic has opened, this one on Parliament Street.

The government had the Powell report, which showed that in 1985, in over half of Ontario's counties, the majority of women obtaining abortions had the procedure outside the county of their residence. There are still many areas of the province where women must travel outside their

county of residence to obtain an abortion. In 1986, in 21 of 50 counties, the majority of women obtained abortions outside the county.

In December 1987, the government announced \$1.5 million for a regional health centre at Women's College Hospital; 16 days later, on December 17, 1987, just over \$500,000 for a women's health centre at St. Joseph's Health Centre in Toronto—which I should hasten to point out was not a health centre that was going to provide abortion services.

On January 25, 1988, it announced funding to expand women's health services in Hamilton. Chedoke-McMaster gets \$250,000 in capital and just under \$500,000 in annual operating funds for enhanced abortion services as well as infertility counselling, family planning, premenstrual syndrome and menopause education and support. Henderson General is to get \$750,000 in capital and about \$330,000 in annual operating funds for family planning, pre- and post-abortion counselling and enhanced abortion services.

One is curious about how much of this money is indeed going to counselling services. There seems to be a duplication of existing services. For example, in Toronto the Women's College Hospital centre is supposed to be a counselling and referral centre, and counselling is widely available through public health units and community-based clinics.

Since the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the Morgentaler case was handed down in January, the number of abortion procedures performed at the Morgentaler and Scott clinics has greatly increased.

If you look at what really happens in this province, across the province, for women who are seeking abortion services, you find that we still have an access problem. Only 16 per cent of women obtaining abortions in Peel obtained the procedure in Peel region. One hundred and seventeen women from Cochrane district all travelled outside their area to obtain abortions. Women from Timmins have to travel to Kirkland Lake. In Simcoe county, 66 per cent of women who obtained abortion services obtained them outside the county. In Hastings and Prince Edward counties, 74 per cent of women who live in those counties travelled far from home to get procedures they needed.

In fact, I think Bill 147 can be used precisely as easily to prevent access to needed abortion services as to provide it. Again, we see nothing about the government's intentions therein. I think the government is going to continue to walk this fine political tightrope and leave the women

of Ontario still without access after all these years.

The minister had some comments to make about the conference happening this very day, which was sponsored, I guess, by the Canadian Institute of Law and Health. In fact, her ministry officials had a major role to play in the conference, as was totally appropriate. I believe conference delegates had the benefit of speeches by Dr. Barkin, the Deputy Minister of Health, Gilbert Sharpe, the legal director of the Ministry of Health and Dr. Bob MacMillan, who, under the old organization of the Ministry of Health, used to be in charge of community health and probably still is in charge of something to do with community health, although I must admit I am still having a little difficulty understanding the new organization of the Ministry of Health, but that puts me in the same boat as the government.

Dr. Barkin gave the opening address, I am given to understand, and he thought this was just a crackerjack piece of legislation, which sounds as if he is doing his job properly. It is the first comprehensive approach to health care facilities with an open process. According to Dr. Barkin, the ministry will fund needed services, give quality care and regulate facilities.

Contrary to what the minister said today, however, there were a number of concerns expressed by delegates at the conference. It may not be surprising that I am going to tell members what those concerns were, and I know the minister will want to know what they are so she can get busy and amend her legislation appropriately.

Hospital concerns: their exclusion from the legislation; concern that their global budgets might be reduced—I guess they have some good reason to be concerned, given the current climate of ministerial grumpiness towards hospitals; concern about the reduction of programming that they now provide and the relocation of programming. They were very worried that, in fact, they would still be subject to across-border attack because of their concern that federal legislation would override provincial legislation. They thought the government should control nonhospital facilities. They were worried, particularly those who represented teaching hospitals, that they might suffer because programs would be removed from their hospitals and the medical students who were seeking to learn would lose the benefit of that learning opportunity.

1610

Some of the people from the hospital sector noted with concern the lack of reference to the

cost-effectiveness that might be achieved by operating an independent health facility, as opposed to an institutional health facility, and saw therein little incentive for hospitals to facilitate the changes.

There was a lot of concern expressed over the arbitrary powers assigned to the minister and the cabinet. If one reads the bill, one sees that in fact the minister has a bunch of power that is given to the minister under the legislation, and clearly that will be of concern to those who had previously had the power to make those decisions. They will not want to give it up lightly. I know my colleague the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) will have some things to say about all that.

There is a fear that there will be increased pressure on emergency beds in hospitals if a procedure performed in an independent facility then necessitates an emergency procedure. How that will be organized? There was one suggestion that the program should be introduced on a trial basis. It might comfort that administrator to know that I already believe this is very much a trial balloon and a balloon that may just go up and up and never come down.

If, because of the existence of Bill 147, the government feels emboldened to further restrict the amount of money going to hospitals, then of course that will be of major concern to hospitals which are already feeling the pinch most severely.

The Ontario Nurses' Association had a number of other concerns, which it raised today at the conference, to which the Minister of Health forgot to allude. In fact, the Ontario Nurses' Association is very strongly critical of Bill 147, in spite of the enormous amount of consultation that, we have heard from the minister, took place in this regard. They are very concerned that extra-billing will be encouraged. They want the word "preference" removed from the legislation and in lieu thereof the words "All independent health facilities will be nonprofit" put; no more wishy-washy preference kinds of stuff, just shut the door.

They also want the door shut firmly on any chance of foreign ownership, which means, again, the minister has to strike out the word "preference" and insert in lieu thereof, "There shall be no foreign ownership of independent health facilities."

I think one of the other major concerns of the Ontario Nurses' Association is that the whole question of fee for service is reinforced by this legislation. They are worried about staffing ratios, they are worried about the enormous

power that will be vested in the minister and the cabinet, they are worried about the absolute silence in the bill about the resolution of labour disputes, industrial relations disputes.

They are worried about what will happen in independent health facilities if a medical emergency should arise. I would think that in most cases a medical emergency might not arise given some of the kinds of procedures that are contemplated. You are not likely to have a medical emergency if you are doing mammo-graphs, for instance. You could well have a medical emergency if you were doing some kinds of laser surgery. How do those emergencies get dealt with? I assume that the clear answer is that they get dealt with the way medical emergencies are now dealt with. We have heard in recent days that those medical emergencies are not being dealt with very well at all.

This is very interesting. This is a matter that I think my colleague the member for Parry Sound will probably dwell on at some length. It was in fact the Ontario Nurses' Association which, in its study of the legislation, came up with a very serious concern, almost at the very end of the bill. It is on page 23 under "Complementary Amendments." It is the concern that has been alluded to already once this day about the disappearance of "medically necessary" and the substitution therefor, for example, of "such services...as are prescribed by the regulations."

If this were intentional, then of course that marks a departure from the history of the delivery of medical services in this country. I am not sure whether all members of this House would have the same ideological response at being confronted by such a departure. I think what it says is that the cabinet of a government of Ontario gets to decide by regulation what kind of services a patient should have, which flies in the face of the oft-stated— in fact, this is stated so often it begins to sound like a litany, that the Minister of Health does not tell doctors what to do.

If you say in the Health Insurance Act that the services are prescribed by the regulations, does it mean that the Minister of Health advises the cabinet, which then passes the regulation and says you can have one bandage on that size of cut, you can get cardiovascular surgery only if you are under 47? You can imagine the terror that was struck in the hearts of health professionals when it suddenly dawned on them. It dawned on Glenna Cole Slattery first and she called the Ontario Medical Association and said, "Have you read this?" and they said: "No, we missed that. I'm glad you brought it up. We will have to

see what they really meant by that because that will be a serious problem."

The ONA thought perhaps the Ministry of Labour should have been consulted on this legislation. I do not know whether it was, but in view of the fact that most nursing staff in Ontario hospitals is organized, the Ministry of Labour has something to do with the matter indeed.

I do not think anyone can disagree that there are some kinds of health services that very much need to be delivered in noninstitutional settings. I do not think there is any question that we have increasingly expected hospitals to provide services they were never intended to provide.

1620

One has only to look at the statistics about blocked beds in our hospitals in Ontario to know that is the case: that acute care beds are being occupied by people who require chronic care beds; that chronic care beds are being occupied by people who would be doing better in a nursing home; and that nursing home beds are occupied by people who could manage very well at home if there were some home support services.

One of the things that I think is unfortunate is that the companion ministries of the Ministry of Health have been failing to see that a more adequate job in terms of the provision of home supports would in fact take the pressure off hospitals, the very pressure that is resulting in some of the dramatic health incidents we hear about practically every day. It makes you wonder about whether or not the government really means it when it says that it foresees a future, a future that is coming soon, where we will be dealing with wellness and not sickness.

I would just like to give a small example that really sticks in my craw, because it would have been so easy for the government to do this and it would have demonstrated some kind of commitment to community-based care, noninstitutional care, and it is an example from the mental health field. In 1982, in the municipal elections that occurred at that time, and this was the second term of the mayor of Toronto, one of the things that he talked about in the city hall version of the speech from the throne was the plight of ex-psychiatric patients, which is visibly increasing in the city of Toronto and elsewhere, particularly in large urban settings in Canada and the United States and Europe.

As one of the things he wanted to do during the course of his term, he caused a task force to be set up, and because he did not want to be seen as just a task force setter-upper, he called it an action task force and he asked Dr. Reva Gerstein to head

up that task force. This is the very same Dr. Reva Gerstein who serves on the Premier's health council and is somebody, I am sure, who is known to the Minister of Health.

Dr. Gerstein eventually assembled a group of advisers and subsequently wrote a report and presented the report to city council, where it was adopted. The report was then sent up the street to Queen's Park and received a glowing endorsement, I might add, from the then Premier. The member from Brampton, I think, was the Premier in those days—

Mr. Black: Bob Callahan?

Mr. Reville: No, it was a different member for Brampton, somebody sort of wider and greyer, if I recall.

Mr. Mackenzie: It wasn't the keys to the Don jail?

Mr. Reville: No, although there is an interesting story; I will tell you about that after a while.

One of the things Dr. Gerstein recommended, and it was a recommendation that she made to the then government of Ontario—which, thankfully, was a different government than today, although the similarity between the 42 years and the three years is becoming more marked all the time—was that one of the things you might do for people in crisis was to figure out a way to keep them out of the institutions in the first place, to make sure they did not go to the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, the Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital or indeed the psychiatric unit at Mount Sinai Hospital or wherever.

One thing you might want to do in a city like Toronto would be to have at least one and perhaps many crisis intervention centres, so that if a person were going into crisis there would be a place where he could go and be safe. It would be small, it might have 15 beds in it. The objective of the people running this centre would be to get you in and out of there just as fast as possible, so that you would not be subject to the kind of dislocation in your life that is such a severe problem for people who have mental health problems.

As things would have it, the Premier at that time, a man named Bill Davis, thought this was just a crackerjack idea. He wrote a lovely letter and said, "Bob will probably want to get on with that right away." Then there were the realities of May 2, 1985, which were a different set of realities from the realities of March 19, 1981, but just as real. These recommendations all became the property of the Liberal government and the responsibility of the Liberal government, and I

am sad to say that at almost the end of 1988 there is no sign of our crisis intervention centre.

The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), who is now a minister of the crown, and I attended an event together, he in his capacity as the critic for everything of the then Liberal opposition and I as an alderman at the time. We had what was called a Parkdale lunch. I should tell members a bit about this Parkdale lunch, because it might provide some urgency for this government to get on with the crisis intervention centre.

One of the hallmarks of a Parkdale lunch is that when you come in you get a handful of pills, and the pills were represented in this case by Smarties in little bags they gave us. You sat down at your place and there was your little bag of Smarties. Of course, you did not have assigned seating, so when you sat down at my place you did not get your pills, you got my pills; and vice versa. This is one of the hallmarks of a Parkdale lunch, which describes, I think quite graphically, some of the problems we have in terms of ex-psychiatric patients and the kind of care they still get today in the province.

There were other aspects of the Parkdale lunch: the baloney, the white bread, the mustard, the soup and the aromatic bitters. There were aromatic bitters beside each place, because you do not have an aperitif or a liqueur in the Parkdale lunch. You get alcohol, you get about 40 per cent or 50 per cent, but you have to get that from your aromatic bitters.

Included as guests at this lunch were, as I say, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot and—I do not recall which member from my party was there at the time. Maybe it was the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston); quite likely. In any event, I wanted to relate that story because I do not want people to think that the recommendations of the Gerstein report were somehow lost and went off into glorious retirement with the previous Premier of this province. In fact, they are there. They are over there at the Ministry of Health. There is four years' worth of dust on them now. I think it is too bad. I know there was a huge argument about whether this should be a medical model crisis intervention centre or a community model intervention centre. Notwithstanding that, this tug of war over the kind of intervention centre does not appear to have been resolved. In fact, I do not know of any crisis intervention centre in operation in Toronto, so I assume the government's failure to get on with it is on its head.

1630

I think it does undercut the protestations of the government that it really is interested in delivering services in independent health facilities noninstitutionally; and quite frankly nonmedically, because I think many health services currently provided and dominated by the medical profession can be delivered most adequately and sometimes better by health professionals who are not medical doctors.

I have indicated to my colleague the member for Parry Sound that I was going to leave him a significant amount of time to speak, but I do not see anybody from the third party here and I am hoping somebody is watching this show so they will come in and begin to speak, then I would be happy to sit down. However, we will just leave that message out there and I will continue speaking for a while yet.

Let us suppose that we have an independent health facility which is providing lithotripsy. I imagine you could do that in an independent health facility. It is pretty expensive to do but there is a great demand for it and it is kind of a neat procedure. In fact, there is one facility that does that. It is in the Wellesley Hospital right now. They do other stuff in there, endoscopy. I cannot say it; it is thing they do to you. It is wicked. I hope I never have that done to me. Anyway, lithotripsy is actually a kind of machine that zaps your stones and kind of breaks them up so you do not require surgery. It is a great idea. Let's suppose we move that out of the Wellesley Hospital into an independent health facility. What would then happen to that space? Is there any assurance that the hospital would not just increase the number of gall bladders it takes out? How would this legislation or the government seek to deal with that? There is no answer.

I understand one of the things you can do for someone who has glaucoma is to use a laser surgical procedure. That might reduce the number of people getting that procedure in hospital.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: That is for cataracts.

Mr. Reville: Yes. For glaucoma as well, because one of the problems you have with glaucoma is that the pressure builds up inside your eyeball and you have to kind of poke a little hole in there. You can do that with laser rather than with a knife. That is a procedure which can occur in a facility which is not a hospital. What is going to become of the operating room time that is being replaced? There is no answer to that question.

The minister, I am sure, trembles at the thought, having made comments about it just recently, of having more Caesarean sections done, more gall bladders out, more hysterectomies performed than there already are because quite clearly, the statistics seem to indicate that we are doing far more than other people are doing. Why is that? While I am glad the Minister of Health is pointing this out, I am also surprised that she points this out in quite the way she does, because surely to goodness the minister has something to say about this. To ask, "Is it not amazing that at a quarter to four on a Friday afternoon everybody suddenly has a Caesarean section?" and commenting on it as though the minister cannot do something about that strikes me as disingenuous. I think the Minister of Health's responsibility is to do something about that.

One of the ways the minister could do something about that is to get herself some clinical epidemiology skills. I am not suggesting that the minister herself should acquire them, but that there are people who have them. They can tell you the kinds of things that work and the kinds of things that do not work. Surely, that would be useful to know if you were in charge of a system that is currently getting close to \$13 billion in cost and which carries on its back the health of more than 9 million people of Ontario.

I would also suggest that once you know what works, it is also a good idea to know what it costs. That is what a health economist could tell the minister. She might want to see if she could find some of those around. Then after you know what worked and what it cost, if you had some health planners around, you could get the cost and what works all together. It would be amazing, the kind of changes that we would see here in Ontario.

I am going to give my colleague, the member for Parry Sound, a little chance to get all his notes together and just conclude by saying that we desperately want an Ontario in which people have full access to the health care services they need. We do not object to the ministry's concern about quality of care being delivered in independent health care facilities that exist now or those that may come into operation in the future.

In fact, there are a number of independent health care facilities that we, in this party, would dearly like to see. For instance, I would think that it would be wonderful if the Toronto Birth Centre could be up and running, so that those parents or would-be parents could get to be parents in a noninstitutional setting like a birthing centre. Of

course, that is something that has been before the government for umpteen years and which might be facilitated by an Independent Health Facilities Act; but it might not be, we do not know that.

There is nothing in this legislation that indicates what the government's intentions are or what the government's mission is in respect of health care delivery. All we have is the trainload of rhetoric that, I must admit, I get really bored by, seeing it pass by day after day after day.

I would be quite happy to offer amendments to Bill 147 that prohibit for-profit independent health facilities, that prohibit foreign ownership of independent health facilities and that prohibit extra-billing—and amendments that require, as a condition of their licensing in those cases where they are replacing an institutional service, that we actually see the offsetting saving. I would love to see that sort of thing in this legislation.

If we ever see it again and it turns out that I am mistaken—the introduction and debate of this bill at this time are not connected with the federal election, but are connected with something real that the government wishes to do, and in fact the public hearings occur in February and March of 1989, I will sit there with rapt attention as people who are concerned come forward and share those concerns with us—I already have a number of amendments I would be happy to move at that time and I am hopeful that those amendments will receive consideration. I know they will receive consideration; it would also be nice if they received support.

1640

In conclusion, I do not believe that Bill 147, in its current state, satisfies any of the claims made for it by the government and because of that, my party will not be supporting Bill 147 at the second reading stage. We will fight hard for changes to it, but at this moment this bill does not satisfy any of the objectives we would have for the health care system in Ontario.

Mr. Eves: It is a pleasure to rise and participate in this debate on what I think is a very important piece of legislation with respect to the future of the health care system in Ontario.

I think we should, first, perhaps get on the record what the underlying principles are behind the legislation. I might say at the outset that our party has no difficulty in supporting the underlying principle. I am assuming that the underlying principle, and I believe the minister has said this on a few occasions and I am sure that she will correct me if I wrong, is that it provides a vehicle for the minister and the ministry to develop community-based health facilities through which

many medical services traditionally associated with hospitals may be performed, and that the act follows the ministry's commitment to improve community-based health care in Ontario.

Having said that, this legislation, of course, will certainly enable patients to undergo certain surgical procedures without having to be admitted to a hospital, and it ensures that these patients will receive, I hope, quality care.

Already existing community health centres and health service organizations, or HSOs as we have come to know them, will be able to develop, I presume, expanded roles under this legislation. I believe the legislation is also a recognition that new technology has made it possible to safely perform some procedures in an out-of-hospital setting, and that some independent health facilities have already started to offer such services in Ontario. I believe that creates some problems for the Ministry of Health and the government, as well. The ministry wants to ensure that such facilities are appropriately located and the procedures are performed in a safe and effective manner, and they purport to regulate the delivery of those services and assure the quality of care and standards delivered by them.

From reading the legislation, it would appear that funding would be negotiated on an individual basis with each facility and that the ministry may choose one of two basic options: that is, to fund facilities on a global basis covering their operational costs including professional services; or to partially fund for costs other than salaries, leaving physicians free to bill the Ontario Health Insurance Plan or OHIP for their professional fees.

The ministry would then pay for any of the approved expenses associated with the provision of insured medical services in these licensed facilities. Services which may be provided in such licensed facilities include laser technology, abortions, in vitro fertilization, cataract surgery, radiology, fracture management, and bladder and heart investigations.

The ministry states that it has three broad objectives: (1) to develop a more community-based health care system, with district health councils participating so that the ministry can plan effectively for the future; (2) to ensure that patients receive quality medical care; and (3) to regulate facilities so that they may be established in a manner consistent with a planned health care system.

Facilities would function in a manner similar to hospital outpatient clinics, employing health care providers such as doctors, nurses, techni-

cians and laboratory assistants. They would not keep patients overnight. Any patient needing treatment who requires an overnight stay would have to be cared for in a hospital.

There are a number of facilities that now offer medical services that have been traditionally performed in hospitals. These include, among others, in vitro fertilization, eye surgery and abortion, to name a few. The legislation gives these facilities an opportunity to apply for a licence.

The ministry states that the act will not affect the provision of insured services in a doctor's routine office practice. I do take some exception to that claim by the ministry, as I indicated during question period today, and I will deal with that at some length a little bit later in my remarks.

The ministry goes on to state that in keeping with the ministry's emphasis on improving community-based health care, the act will fall under the jurisdiction of the assistant deputy minister of community health and that the ministry will have the authority to appoint trained health care professionals as assessors to review the quality of care offered by a facility.

The method of licensing is somewhat interesting. While the commitment to local district health councils has been made, it is interesting to note that the legislation states that local district health councils may define needs or make recommendations for facilities to the ministry or the ministry may in fact identify these needs and ask district health councils to respond. The ministry will review any district health council recommendation, and if the ministry agrees with the recommendation, it will call for proposals for a facility.

Preference will be given to nonprofit and Canadian proposals, and facilities currently operating may be grandfathered and allowed to continue operating as they are until one year from the day that this act becomes law. During that year, the facility may apply for a licence without going through the competition process. I find that statement a little bit interesting. The ministry will review the application and make a decision based on quality of care, cost and need. Once licensed, a facility will be required to conform to the specified standards.

I want to go back to the point about facilities that are going to be grandfathered. I question why such facilities are going to be granted a licence without going through the competition process that every other facility that will be created, supposedly from here on in, has to go through. I think you could run into not only a few

legal problems here, but you could also run into the very basic problem, as I see it, of equity.

In other words, as long as you had the foresight to start your own private clinic and get out there and do some things that the ministry or the government was not particularly happy about before the magic cutoff date, you are going to be allowed to continue to do that in the future without any competitive basis for deciding which clinics will or will not be funded. I think the ministry should certainly give that some second thought, to say the least.

It also brings up the question of the Scott and Morgentaler clinics, among others. I think it is safe to say there are clinics in Ontario that have probably, through one means or another, through their facility fee, been charging for services. Now I suppose really what this act will do, if it passes as drafted, is legitimize that process.

Without commenting on the merits of extra-billing or not extra-billing—I am sure we have had that debate on many occasions in this Legislature and we could speak for hours about it—suffice it to say it is somewhat interesting that a government that is committed to eliminating and has in fact eliminated extra-billing, in many instances has condoned it since Bill 94 was passed and now it is going to legitimize it, to some extent, through this legislation.

1650

"The ministry is consulting with the major health care organizations on this bill, including the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario." If in fact the ministry has consulted with all those various groups, as it claimed to have when it first introduced this piece of legislation back on, I believe, June 2, 1988, it may have talked to these groups but I do not know if it has listened to much of what these groups have had to say. This afternoon in my remarks I would like to touch upon some of the concerns that each one of these groups the ministry supposedly consulted with before it even drafted the legislation has with respect to Bill 147 or the Independent Health Facilities Act.

The OMA has some interesting concerns, to say the least, with respect to this piece of legislation. They acknowledge that this legislation is an attempt to create a system to fund health clinics, but at the same time at least some members have concerns that the Ministry of Health is presenting to Ontario's health care system a threat to doctor-patient confidentiality and that it is going to revise the standards of care

in the province of Ontario. They see this legislation as an attack upon the independence of physicians everywhere in Ontario.

The intent of this bill was to provide public funding to clinics which provide procedures, such as we have mentioned, traditionally performed in hospitals. A facility fee would be paid to cover the difference between the Ontario health insurance plan rate and the cost of running the clinic. The OMA supports the expansion of health clinics, but the current bill could have a terrible impact on the practice of medicine in Ontario, unless the government agrees to consider major changes to its legislation.

The Minister of Health has said that the bill does not apply to doctors' offices. While no one will be forced to work in an independent health facility, one section of the bill will permit ministry inspectors to enter a doctor's office and determine that he is or is not operating an independent health facility. These ministry inspectors, as I tried to point out in question period today, will not require warrants. They will have the authority to seize medical charts, financial records and tissue, fluid and blood samples. The bill specifically requires all personnel to co-operate with the inspector or face severe fines if they do not comply.

I think we should just think about that power for a moment. I think it is a fairly dramatic, dictatorial, draconian power, to say the least. I tried to get an answer to this question today in question period, but did not get one. I got a statement again of what the basic principle of the act is and about how it is supposedly going to improve the health care system in Ontario.

I have no quarrel with the minister about what the basic principle of the act is. I do not believe that many members of the House do. However, she did not answer the question as to why inspectors under this act should be able to enter into a facility that is not covered by this act, that is not an independent health facility, without a warrant, and be able to seize individual patients' medical records, doctors' medical records, samples—blood samples or tissue samples—without any requirement as to what those samples are going to be used for, how those records are going to be used, what is going to happen to them. What does that say for doctor-patient confidentiality?

I would think most Ontarians would be shocked and surprised to learn that this power is included in the proposed legislation. I think we should make sure that the public understands, although it may seem like a legal splitting of

hairs, the difference between independent health facilities, as defined by the legislation in section 1, and health facilities, because this bill is only supposed to apply, if I understand the intent of the legislation correctly, to independent health facilities, which "means a health facility in which one or more members of the public receive or are intended to receive services that are insured services and for which facility fees are or are intended to be charged, but does not include a health facility mentioned in section 2."

"'Health facility' means a place in which one or more members of the public receive or are intended to receive health services and includes an independent health facility."

The difference between those two definitions, putting it in layman's language, is that the health facility includes any place in Ontario where a member of the public is receiving health services, and that includes a doctor's private office; so even if a doctor's private office is not covered and is not an independent health facility, it is included in this broad definition of health facility. If that is not the case, then why do we have the need for a "health facility" definition under this act at all? Why does the act not specifically say that inspectors have those rights only when they enter "independent health facilities" as opposed to the terminology "health facilities"?

Even if we were to give inspectors those rights for independent health facilities only, I still have a problem with that. I have a problem with the protection of the doctor-patient confidentiality aspect and I have a problem with inspectors being able to do that without a warrant, without at least reasonably justifying to a justice of the peace or a judge that there are some reasonable grounds upon which and for which an inspector requires the specific items or documentation that he or she is about to seize. This is a democracy and I think we should continue to operate as one.

When the minister introduced the bill she said, "The act also gives the Ministry of Health regulatory authority to assess and enforce standards of quality and care." At least some members of the Ontario Medical Association are very worried that this will strip away from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario the responsibility for setting health care standards in the province.

I also note, as I did in question period today, that Bill 147 will change the definition of an insured service. Under the provision of the Health Insurance Act, an insured service is described as "all services rendered by physicians

that are medically necessary.” The clause in the proposed Independent Health Facilities Act would amend the insurance act to read, “such services rendered by physicians as are prescribed by the regulations.”

If the meaning is the same, there is no need to change the definition, but I think the meaning is clear. I think the meaning of the Ministry of Health and this government is that from now on regulation and not medical necessity will determine the provision of insured services in Ontario. I am not so sure that the public of Ontario would agree with that proposed change.

I am sure that if and when this piece of legislation gets to committee, the minister and ministry officials will hear abundant concern, not only in the community of physicians but from health care providers and, more important, from members of the public who use the system, that we are now going to do by regulation what before medical practitioners decided was or was not medically necessary.

1700

I am sure that should concern all Ontarians. I have some qualms myself, as a legislator, about doing this by regulation. Regulation, as most of us know but perhaps a lot of people in the lay community at large are not aware, is really a means, on occasion, of government circumventing the legislative process and not having to bring specific changes in legislation to this House to be debated in public and sent out to committee, but rather to sort of do it by legal staff in any particular ministry deciding that certain aspects of pieces of legislation should be changed.

Mr. Black: Previous governments used to do that.

Mr. Eves: Yes, previous governments used to do that. That does not mean I condone it.

Some governments and some ministries abuse that privilege more than others. You have governments that govern by legislation and you have governments and ministers that govern by regulation, and I do not think this is a desirable step, especially in such a significant piece of legislation or in the health care field in Ontario.

I hope that when the minister says she is listening to the concerns of people out there, she indeed will listen to some of these concerns, because I think some of them are very, very valid indeed. Admittedly, some of them come from certain aspects of different medical professions or from society and some of them have a vested interest, but that is not to say that their opinions should be cast aside. After all, these people are the people who work in the health care system

day in and day out and, with all due respect to both the minister and myself, probably know far more about the health care system than either one of us will ever know on a day-to-day basis.

The Minister of Health will also enjoy sweeping new powers under this legislation if it goes ahead as proposed. She will have the power to revoke, deny or grant a licence for an independent health facility without having to face an appeal process.

If any future minister, for whatever reasons—moral, political or whatever—were opposed, for example, to abortion or to in vitro fertilization, he or she could arbitrarily close clinics providing those services without having to explain the decision to anybody. They are not accountable to anybody and there is no appeal process from that decision.

As a lawyer, I find that a very distasteful way of proceeding with any piece of legislation and I find it a power that I think is totally unnecessary.

Mr. Brown: He forgot where he was.

Mr. Eves: I did not forget where I was.

Interjections.

Mr. Eves: I am not touchy at all today. I can stand here today and all day tomorrow if you would prefer, if they choose to call this bill again and talk about this piece of legislation.

The gentleman to my left, probably both philosophically and physically in this sense—

Mr. Offer: No probably about it.

Mr. Eves: No probably about it? That does not say much for them, I am afraid.

Talking about why this piece of legislation is before us today, they reminded me of a very important point which one should not miss in this debate on Bill 147 today; in fact, why we are debating this bill today.

Wearing one of my other hats as whip for our party in the Legislature, I have the privilege of going to House leaders' meetings every Thursday morning. It is interesting to note that the government House leader gave us notice last Thursday that there were three of what he called free trade bills that he would like to get on the Orders and Notices paper before the federal election on November 21. He does not want them necessarily to be discussed in detail—heaven forbid—and discuss the merits of legislation, he just wanted to make sure that each one of them got a day in the House before the federal election was held.

I ask you, what kind of leadership and responsibility of government is that when you play politics with an agenda?

Mr. Black: Good leadership, unlike your cousins in Ottawa.

Mr. Eves: Applaud that if you wish. I do not think the overwhelming majority of Ontario citizens would agree that that is a very productive exercise: to know that members are going to debate what the Minister of Health considers to be a very important piece of legislation but we are only going to do it for one day, then the government is going to put it on the back burner for two or three weeks until the federal election is over, then it is going to bring it back.

I do not think that is a very responsible approach to government in Ontario and I do not think it speaks very well of the government, quite frankly, to use those tactics to its federal brethren's political advantage, without any intention whatsoever of passing the legislation, in these few short days before the federal election. I do not agree, by the way, that it is going to get them anywhere, but I think the very fact they would use that strategy is somewhat disconcerting and certainly does not speak well for the respect these people have for the Legislature of Ontario, I do not think, in what we are doing.

We could have chosen one of those pieces of legislation. In fact, there are pieces of legislation such as the tax bills, which the Treasurer has introduced in the second week of May. Let's see—June, July, August, September, October, November—six months later, here we are and we have still not dealt with the tax bills. I bet I know why we are not going to deal with the tax bills. I bet they are not going to be on the Orders and Notices paper before November 21.

Do members know why they will not be on the order paper before November 21? Heaven forbid, we would not want the public of Ontario to get the idea that there is a Liberal government somewhere in Canada, in fact, right here in Ontario, that would raise taxes. We have been collecting eight per cent sales tax since May, but we are not going to debate it—heaven forbid—before November 21, when there is a federal election going on. Somebody may actually get the opinion that Liberals also raise taxes. I do not think that speaks very well of the current government, either.

Mr. Reycraft: In politics, timing is everything.

Mr. Eves: Timing is everything? In politics, sometimes manipulation is everything, too, I might say to the member opposite.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Order, please. The member for Parry Sound

would like the opportunity to address the assembly in an uninterrupted manner in accordance with the rules.

Mr. Offer: We value your authority, Mr. Speaker. The speech is five minutes and 95 minutes of interjections.

Mr. Eves: Only if they want it to be, I say to the members opposite.

I want to go back to the three questions and the three concerns, which I think are very valid concerns, that I raised in the Legislature this afternoon during question period. Section 26 of the Independent Health Facilities Act gives Ministry of Health inspectors the authority to enter any health facility, and I note very specifically that the section is not worded "any independent health facility," but "a health facility," and that includes, unless the minister changes the definition, any doctor's private office.

The inspector can take records, charts, blood and tissue samples; in fact, can interrogate any person in that doctor's office, any patient. It says any person present on those premises. Most unbelievable of all, the government inspector can do this without a warrant, without having to justify to the judicial system here in Ontario that there is any valid or reasonable reason for so doing.

As I said during question period today, and I reiterate, I think this is a violation of the most fundamental principle, patient confidentiality. I ask the minister again how she can possibly justify putting such a measure in a piece of legislation. I think the very least the minister should consider is that such authority would only be given with a warrant. I also think such authority should not be given for any health facility. If this act is purporting to deal with independent health facilities, then let these provisions apply only to independent health facilities.

1710

Gilbert Sharpe, who I understand is the director of legal services in the Ministry of Health, was addressing the conference this morning—my understanding is—and he was running down the clauses he thought were very important, that the people attending the conference should pay attention to.

It is interesting to note, it is my understanding from talking to people who were there, that he skipped over section 26. He obviously did not think it was very important. But it is also my understanding that most of the questions Mr. Sharpe got and most of the comments and

questions raised later on in the meeting came about section 26. I do not know how the director of legal services for the Ministry of Health could think this was not a very important section. It is probably one of the most important sections in the entire bill, especially from a legal point of view.

As I said this afternoon, while I find it hard to believe that the government would even contemplate some of the measures contained in the Independent Health Facilities Act, fortunately this legislation does set out an appeal process in which a person can appeal a decision made by the director of independent health facilities. I could not agree more. I think that appeal procedure could perhaps be expanded upon a little bit. I believe it gives the right—I am doing this from memory—to appeal to Divisional Court and that decision is to be final and binding.

I do not necessarily think we had to stop there. If it had not said that was the final decision, individuals in the province who felt so aggrieved could then appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal. From my limited experience and knowledge in that field, such appeals are not granted very liberally, if I may use that term in a nonpolitical sense, and I do not think there would have been much of a problem with allowing appeals to the Ontario Court of Appeal. However, be that as it may, at least an appeal process is in place in the statute and at least people who feel they are aggrieved and have a concern have the right to appeal that.

However, I am somewhat disturbed by the next section, section 9, I believe, which allows the minister to completely override the appeal process in his or her wisdom. We are not only concerned about the current Minister of Health. In fact, I do not question the current Minister of Health's motivations about this legislation. I have nothing but respect for the current Minister of Health with respect to her dedication and sincerity about the very onerous portfolio she is in charge of, but members should bear in mind that there are going to be future ministers of health and there are going to be different circumstances and different stressful situations that ministers of health from time to time are going to find themselves in.

The minister is given the power under section 9 to decide to revoke a licence, to not grant a licence, to come in and take over independent health facilities, all of which can happen with absolutely no recourse of appeal whatsoever. I find that very disturbing. I find it disturbing as a matter of equity. I find it disturbing as a matter of

law. I find it disturbing, I suppose, that it would even be introduced into a bill that would hit the floor of this Legislature without having been screened out by somebody in the ministry before it arrived on the floor of the Ontario Legislature.

The possibility exists, not the probability but the possibility, for a Minister of Health to decide for whatever reason, and the reason could cover anything from his own personal belief to political reasons, to revoke or not grant a licence without any accountability to anybody whatsoever for that decision, at least not legally, not the way this bill is drafted, not the way section 9 of Bill 147 reads.

I pointed out two examples a few moments ago. What if a future Minister of Health were opposed to abortion for any reason whatsoever? Think of the power he would have under section 9 of this bill. What if a future Minister of Health were opposed, on personal or religious grounds or beliefs, to in vitro fertilization? He can invoke section 9 of this bill.

I do not think that opportunity, however limited it is, for abuse of the political process should exist and be enacted into legislation. I would venture to say that not only the vast majority of health professionals around the province would probably agree with that statement but probably the vast majority of ordinary Ontario citizens would agree with that statement. I would like the minister to think about that as well.

The third major point I thought I would try to make during question period today covers the definition currently under the Health Insurance Act or the Ontario health insurance plan, which covers all services rendered by physicians that are medically necessary. The ministry refers to the section in the Independent Health Facilities Act as a complementary amendment, amending this to read, "Such services as are prescribed by the regulations."

Basically, what this means is that the Ministry of Health, whatever its intentions, will now determine what is medically necessary, not physicians. Quite frankly, I do not think that bureaucrats should be determining what is medically necessary, as opposed to medical practitioners. I would also like to point out that the Canada Health Act has wording very similar to the Health Insurance Act. I believe that the wording of those two acts as they are now is appropriate and is correct.

I do not think we should change it to "such services as are prescribed by the regulations." I would ask the minister to think about that, to talk

to her officials in the Ministry of Health and to consider whether or not she would like to withdraw this complementary amendment to ensure that all medically necessary services will be paid for, will be provided for to the people of Ontario and will be paid for by OHIP, because I think it is very important to ensure a first-class and quality health care system in Ontario in the future.

I would like to go through the Independent Health Facilities Act and talk a little bit about each one of several specific sections, and some possible concerns that I can see arising in the future. Then, time permitting, I would like to go on and indicate some of the reactions that we have gotten, not only from the Ontario Medical Association but the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Ontario Hospital Association as well, with respect to the draft legislation.

Under section 6 of the Independent Health Facilities Act, or Bill 147, the director of independent health facilities may issue a licence to establish and operate an independent health facility. Subsection 6(2) makes it clear that the director's power in this regard is entirely discretionary, subject only to the preference for Canadian, nonprofit operations as set out in subsection 6(3). The emphasis upon the discretionary nature of the director's function will tend to discourage courts from interfering with the decision made by the director under section 6.

We therefore may wish to consider whether or not there are any specific restrictions which should be imposed upon the director's discretion. I am going to throw out some of these thoughts and some of these points which I believe are at least worth considering, I say to the minister. Hopefully, we will get the opportunity to pursue them at some length in committee.

Section 8 of the act provides for an appeal process with respect to that director's decision. Any applicants who feel that they are aggrieved by the decision of the director may appeal to the Health Facilities Appeal Board within 15 days after receiving notice of the director's decision. The board must then conduct a hearing.

Under subsection 8(5), "the board may substitute its opinion for that of the director." But the board is not permitted to compel the director to do anything contrary to the criteria specified in the request for proposals. On the whole, I suppose, this appeals scheme would appear to be generally satisfactory. I have made my point before about the appeals process. Although I think it could be improved upon, I think it is probably adequate.

1720

Under section 9 of the act, the Minister of Health may order the director not to issue a licence to an applicant. It is important to note that the appeal provisions set out in section 8 do not apply to such a refusal by the minister.

On occasion, courts have permitted judicial review of the decision of a minister, but I must point out that the criteria for judicial review are extremely limited indeed. I think we can assume legally that the decision of the minister under section 9 will be very effectively final and conclusive, and it does not require the minister to account for why he or she came to that decision. There is really no accountability required by the minister for making such a decision under section 9, other than perhaps the political accountability, which I suppose we all, as elected representatives, and especially members of the executive council, have to fulfil from time to time.

I think also very important is that a decision under this section has no right of appeal established by legislation. I really think it is fundamental to the justice system in Ontario, and I think it is fundamental to this piece of legislation and the health care system in Ontario. I would ask the minister to consider that point very seriously.

There is little apparent justification for section 9, since the application process described in section 8 gives the director very wide discretion to accept or reject any proposal and the director is presumably in at least as good a position as the minister to decide which proposal should or should not be accepted or rejected.

If those provisions are outlined, as indeed they are in section 8, one has to wonder why they could come to any other conclusion with respect to section 9, other than the fact that section 9 is intended to give the minister the right to ignore the entire application and the appeal process as set out in sections 6 and 8. I think we should seriously think about that.

If there are all these protections built into section 6 and section 8, then the director probably is going to be more qualified—if I might say so, without any disrespect to the existing or any future minister—than the minister, because he or she is going to be the individual who, on a day-to-day basis, deals with this aspect of health in Ontario.

If there is an appeal process set up for a decision of the director, then why would there not be an appeal process set up for a decision of the minister, who can override the director and

does not really even have to give any reason for so doing? They are not accountable.

I have some comments about taking control of an independent health facility upon or after the termination of a licence.

Section 16 provides that where a licence expires or is surrendered, suspended or revoked or the licensee dies, the director may take control of and operate the facility for as long as a year, during which the former licensee is not entitled to any payment for services provided by the facility but is entitled to "reasonable compensation" for the use of the property. Under subsection 16(4), such an order "takes effect immediately and is final." The act does not indicate how reasonable compensation is to be determined. No appeal process is set out in the act if the former licensee is dissatisfied with the amount the crown decides is reasonable.

I think at the very least we expect from the ministry some clarification as to how the ministry intends this compensation process will work, because if you look at section 16 on its face, I think it too has some very farfetched powers in that any such orders, as it says, take effect immediately and are final. There is no appeal process set out for that decision, for such an order under section 16, and there is no method of deciding how reasonable compensation is going to be arrived at. I am sure members of the Legislature with legal training will know that the term "reasonable compensation" I suppose could be interpreted to mean just about anything by just about anybody, depending on what tack you are taking and whose interest you are protecting in any specific instance.

Under section 17, "the director may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew a licence" for reasons set out in detail in subsection 17(1). Under subsection 17(2), where the director believes the facility is being operated "in a manner that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of any person," he may suspend the licence effective immediately. Otherwise, he has to give notice. Otherwise, there is the right of appeal to the Health Facilities Appeal Board under section 19. Under this process, the licensee is entitled to a hearing before the board, while section 20 describes the procedure to be followed at such a hearing.

The procedure appears to be, on the surface, generally satisfactory, I would say, although it should be noted that sections 15 and 16 of the Statutory Powers Procedure Act apply to the hearing. The result of that is that the board "may admit as evidence..., whether or not given or

proven under oath or affirmation or admissible as evidence in a court,

"(a) any oral testimony; and

"(b) any document or any other thing, "relevant to the subject matter of the proceedings and may act on such evidence."

I want members to think about that for a moment. The evidence that is going to be acceptable under appeals as defined in this act, in the sections I have just named, does not have to be the same as evidence that is admissible in court. It does not have to be oral testimony or documents that have been proven admissible in a court of law.

From time to time, those provisions do not have to apply to tribunals but I think, in light of the very substantial prejudice which could be suffered by a licensee whose licence is revoked, the appeal process under this piece of legislation is very important. I think we should at least consider asking ourselves whether the ordinary civil rules of evidence apply.

I might point out that in proceedings before the disciplinary committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario the ordinary civil rules of evidence apply. Surely we should expect no lesser standard under a piece of legislation introduced into this Legislature than the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario expects in its own disciplinary committee hearings. I do not really see how the Minister of Health could help but deny that request, seeing as how the college is operating in that way with respect to evidence of its own hearings right now.

It is important to note that under section 18 the minister may order the director not to renew a licence and, as in the case of section 9, there is no right of appeal to the board with respect to such a refusal. As a practical matter, section 18 provides the ministry with a means of bypassing entirely the director and the appeal process. On that basis, I do not think there is any doubt that section 18 should be opposed.

I go back to the same arguments I made with respect to section 9 of the bill. If you have a director of independent health facilities who is dealing with these matters on a daily basis and he or she is brought up to speed on a daily basis with these facilities throughout Ontario and is empowered to make decisions with respect to them, and if the minister is going to be given the power to overrule the director, then surely there should be at least the right of appeal with respect to such a refusal, the minister should at least be accountable as to why he or she made that decision, there should at least be an appeal to the board and there

should be an appeal to the Divisional Court as well.

1730

Speaking of appeals to Divisional Court, section 21 permits a party to proceedings before the board to appeal to the Divisional Court. It must be emphasized, however, that this appeal is "on a question of law alone," meaning that the appeal cannot be based on questions of fact. I should have thought that most of the appeals from a decision of the board would be based on matters of fact rather than of law. I think the section therefore should be amended to read that the appeal may be "on questions of law or fact or both."

I think this is a very important point, if we are going to allow an appeal to the Divisional Court, which I do think is necessary. As I indicated earlier, I would prefer not to limit it there. I would prefer that the decision of the Divisional Court not be final and binding; I would leave everybody his normal civil right to appeal to the Court of Appeal, if indeed the Court of Appeal felt the matter before it was important enough to accept an appeal.

Assuming we accept the fact that the Divisional Court's decision will be final and binding, I think that in this particular instance with this particular act and having regard to the types of matters that are going to be before this particular board and ultimately the Divisional Court, it should be appealable on questions of fact and law, or fact as well as law, not just limited to questions of law, because I think most of the decisions of this board will be based on questions of fact.

It is also interesting to note that under subsection 21(3) the powers of the Divisional Court are restricted to affirming or rescinding the decision of the board or referring the matter back to the board for a rehearing. Many similar provisions provide that the court may exercise all the powers of the board and direct a board to take any action which the board itself could take and the court considers proper. For such purposes, the court surely should be able to substitute its own opinion for that of the board.

I think we should consider that sort of discretion for the Divisional Court under subsection 21(3). I do not think we should tie the Divisional Court down to having either to affirm or rescind a decision of the board or to refer the matter back to the board for rehearing. In many other tribunals, the court has the power to exercise any of the powers that the board could have exercised and make a decision that the

board could have reached. I think we should consider making this act conform to other acts which implement tribunals in the province of Ontario.

Subsection 21(4) provides, as I have said, that the decision of the Divisional Court is final. In the absence of such a provision, as I have tried to outline, the parties would be at liberty to apply to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal the decision of the Divisional Court. As I have said, this kind of leave, as a practical matter, is relatively difficult to obtain, but the restriction on further appeal is unusual and I think at least should be mentioned in this process, in the second reading debate, and also in committee as well.

I would like to go on and talk at some length about the assessment and inspection provision of the act.

Mr. Dietsch: I thought you were getting to the end.

Mr. Eves: Oh, we are not anywhere near the end yet. We are not even near the end of the specifics of the act, let alone the comments other people have with respect to it.

Mr. Wildman: When you say we're not near the end, is that a metaphysical statement?

Mr. Eves: That is a true statement.

Mr. Harris: We were a little near the end in Welland-Thorold.

Mr. Eves: That is a totally different matter, as the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) will know, having caught a cold myself campaigning in the by-election, and it did a lot of good, obviously. I can see that.

Under section 25 of the act, an assessor appointed by the minister may assess "the quality and the standards of services provided in independent health facilities." The licensee and its employees must co-operate fully with an assessor, including "conferring with the assessor when requested to do so by the assessor." It is unclear whether this clause would require a licensee or any of its employees to answer all questions put by the assessor. It seems reasonable to assume that this is the intent of this subsection. The powers of inspection set out in subsection 25(3) are broad. I think we should review them as legislators to see carefully whether they are likely to pose practical problems.

Section 26, which I spent some time on in question period and again in this debate this afternoon, provides that an inspector may at any time enter the premises of any health facility—and

again I point out that does not say an "independent health facility" as licensed by this act; it says "a health facility" and that includes a doctor's private office that is not licensed under this act—without a warrant to make an inspection. This section and the powers purported to be given under it are very unusual and, to me as a legislator, clearly unacceptable. I think that not only will our party oppose it, but I would presume that many other members of the Legislature as well would oppose this arbitrary use of power. I think at the very least we should insist that such a right of inspection be predicated upon the issuance of a warrant by the judicial system in Ontario.

As I said earlier, personally I would go a little bit further than that. I would not only say we should have to have a warrant for an inspector to exercise those types of powers, because they are very serious indeed, especially with respect to doctor-patient confidentiality, but I think it should be limited only to the independent health facilities covered by this specific legislation, not by any health facility which is not covered by this legislation.

Then we go on, of course, to the offences and fines section. I would like to point out to members of the Legislature that subsection 31(4) provides that any individual convicted of an offence is liable to a fine of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for every day during which the offence continues. A corporation guilty of such similar offence is liable to a fine of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for each day.

I want to spend a little time now talking about the "Complementary Amendments" section, the proposed amendment to the definition of "insured services" in the Health Insurance Act. At present, clause 1(h) of the Health Insurance Act defines insured services as "such services of hospitals and health facilities as are prescribed by the regulations, all services rendered by physicians that are medically necessary and such other health care services as are rendered by such practitioners and under such conditions and limitations as are prescribed by the regulations...."

Under what is described by the ministry in this particular legislation, and I think quite inaccurately, as a complementary amendment, because I do not think it is complementary at all with respect to the Independent Health Facilities Act, it is proposed to amend clause 1(h) of the Health Insurance Act by replacing the words "all services rendered by physicians that are medically necessary" with the words "such services

rendered by physicians as are prescribed by the regulations."

The effect of this amendment would be to limit the insured services a physician could perform to those set out in government regulations, whereas the previous definition included any service by a physician which was medically necessary. In other words, the ministry now seeks to define by regulation just what is medically necessary and is no longer prepared to permit physicians to make that determination. That will be determined by bureaucrats and civil servants in the Ministry of Health, instead.

1740

I think this is of fundamental importance to the medical profession, as well as to related health care professions such as nursing. It is indeed interesting that the ministry has introduced this very significant amendment under the guise of being what it calls a complementary amendment to the Independent Health Facilities Act. It is, in fact, no such thing. It is not a complementary amendment. It drastically changes the definition and description of what services will and will not be covered. It changes who decides what services are, or are not going to be necessary.

I think it is also of substantial importance because clause 21(1)(c) of the Canada Health Act stipulates that in order to qualify for federal funding, a provincial health insurance plan "must provide for reasonable compensation for all insured health services rendered by medical practitioners."

"Insured health services" is defined under that act as including "physicians' services" which are, in turn, defined in the act as meaning "any medically required services rendered by medical practitioners." There is little or no difference between the words "medically necessary" in the existing clause 1(h) of the Ontario Health Insurance Act and the words, "medically required" in the Canada Health Act.

I think that both those pieces of legislation—one provincial and one federal—leave no doubt of the type of service that is to be covered by a health insurance scheme in any province in Canada, that is, those types of services which are medically necessary. I do not think the government, in what it calls here a complementary amendment, is being complementary to those pieces of legislation at all. It is drastically changing what services are going to qualify under the Independent Health Facilities Act.

I would now like to move on to a couple of comments with respect to this legislation that we have received from other interested people.

Mr. Black: What about the Ontario Medical Association?

Mr. Eves: We have covered the OMA pretty well, I think. We are going to get off the OMA for a while. I want to impress upon the minister, her parliamentary assistant and other members that there are indeed many people out there in the health profession who have concerns about this legislation, not just the doctors.

The dean of nursing at the University of Toronto, Dr. Pringle, was quoted as saying this morning at the conference that was held that there are excessive ministerial powers in this legislation, that there are no incentives to set up an independent health facility, and that the legislation leaves more to the imagination than it defines. Dr. Patricia Teal of the OMA questioned something about the cost-effectiveness of the whole proposal of the legislation.

Does this mean that we are going to always accept the cheapest proposal? Does this mean that the standard of the world-class health care system, as the minister often refers to it, is that we are going to have cut-rate health care in Ontario?

I think the act is far too vague. I think that, really, the act should be reworked in a much more specific sense, addressing some of the abuses that we have pointed out in the House this afternoon, before it is ever dreamt to send this draft piece of legislation to committee.

Other concerns that came out of the conference today were the role of hospitals. The Ontario Hospital Association does not believe that this bill will not harm hospitals in Ontario and that many ambulatory services may have to close in hospitals in Ontario as a result of the legislation.

Nursing shortages: The nursing profession has concerns. How can the ministry and the government ensure that nurses will be available for the independent health facilities proposed by this act and that standards are kept up? It might be interesting to note that Glenna Cole Slattery, the executive director of the Ontario Nurses' Association—

Mr. Keyes: A friend of mine.

Mr. Eves: A friend of yours?

She suggested this morning that there be a sunset clause with respect to this piece of legislation and that perhaps it could be introduced on a trial basis, because we do not know if it is going to be a cost-effective procedure or a cost-effective system and we do not know if the standards are going to be able to be kept.

When you are thinking about the basic principles of this legislation, they sound great;

and they are good. Community-based health care as a basic principle is very acceptable. But one cannot help but wonder whether in fact, in many instances, we are not going to be duplicating costs in a health care system that is already severely burdened.

We look at the cost of the health care budget. I believe in Ontario this year it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$13 billion. If we are now going to go into licensing independent health facilities, I know the ultimate intent is that in the long term, hopefully, it will prove to be cost-effective, but at least initially I think the minister and the government would have to concede that there are going to be some substantial initial costs to the Ontario taxpayer in establishing such a system.

I think we should be debating and talking about where that money is going to come from, how we can get some sort of a handle or an estimate of what that cost is going to be, and in the long run is this indeed going to be a cost-effective way of dealing with these problems.

There are vested interests, as we said at the outset, of all kinds of groups in society, not just the Ontario Medical Association and the doctors. There is the Ontario Hospital Association; I have read you a couple of its concerns. There is the Ontario Nurses' Association; I have read you some of its concerns. The Registered Nurses Association of Ontario has similar concerns.

The Ontario Hospital Association indicates in a bulletin it released today at this conference that it supports the intent of the legislation, as indeed I said at the outset we do, "to improve the balance and the efficiency of the health care delivery system through the orderly development of facilities for ambulatory patients that will be subject to planning, funding and quality-assurance criteria," as are public hospitals in Ontario.

But the OHA goes on to say that it seeks assurance from the Ministry of Health that public hospitals will have equal opportunity under the act to be licensed to establish these community-based facilities where such a need is demonstrated. They will seek to have the licensing provisions of the bill extended to require that nonhospital diagnostic facilities be subject to the same planning criteria as hospitals are.

I know from talking to members at the OHA that they indeed are concerned, especially that some smaller community hospitals in the province are going to suffer some repercussions and effects from this legislation going through.

I want also to reiterate some of the concerns that Glenna Cole Slattery of the ONA had at the conference today. I believe she was speaking this morning. First of all, she is concerned that the minister and cabinet have excessive and abusive powers. I have mentioned those sections at length, not only in question period but also in the debate here this afternoon.

She has said that the act severely limits the creation of new and lower-cost alternatives to physician in-hospital services. She feels that it leaves the door open for the extra-billing of patients.

She believes that it permits the creation of health facilities on a for-profit basis, which in turn may lead to further privatization of health care services. She states that the act continues to leave the door open for foreign ownership of health facilities. She states that it permits the funding of facilities on a fee-for-service basis.

She is concerned that there is a danger that the standards of operation, including registered nursing staffing ratios, will not be adequate in such facilities. She is concerned that the act does not provide for the resolution of disputes concerning terms and conditions of employment in such facilities. She is concerned that the act does not provide for a mechanism to deal with issues concerning excessive workload and impact of care in such a system and does not deal with the unanticipated events of an emergent nature.

1750

The minister claims that her officials have drafted this act in consultation with all of these groups. It is apparent that Glenna Cole Slattery says that has not necessarily been the case with respect to the ONA.

I would like to put on the record a letter about the proposed Independent Health Facilities Act, Bill 147, addressed to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) from a constituent of his, a copy of which was sent to our office, dated September 10, 1988.

"Dear Mr. Scott:

"I am writing to you because you are both my MPP and the Attorney General of this province. As a past, present and future patient, I was shocked and outraged to learn that your government has introduced legislation that can make my medical records vulnerable to what I consider unwarranted, and certainly unwanted, seizure and inspection without my or my doctor's consent and even without my knowledge.

"Surely no argument should be necessary to persuade you, a defender of civil liberties, that

these records, which contain extremely personal, sensitive and potentially damaging information, should be protected, not made vulnerable to abuse. I do not want my medical history open to public inspection and I imagine that you do not want your records to be seized and invaded.

"I understand that one of the current debates between the government and the OMA, the College of Physicians and Surgeons and individual doctors is whether or not the proposed act will apply to private doctors' offices or just the proposed independent health facilities. I am inclined to support the doctors' view that the act could apply in both cases and therefore should be rejected. Beyond that, however, I feel strongly that medical records at independent health facilities should not be in a special category. They should not be open to seizure without a warrant and should not be treated differently from medical records collected and kept elsewhere.

"If the government is serious about wanting to encourage the establishment of these new centres and about wanting to avoid a two-tier form of medicine, it should not treat users of these new medical services via their medical records differently from users of other medical services. With respect to the argument that the government needs access to medical records to assess the competence of physicians, I would suggest that there are other ways to test doctors' competence without invading the privacy of their patients' records.

"Because I feel so strongly that the sanctity of personal medical records should be protected and strengthened, rather than eroded further, I am sending a copy of this letter to a variety of other members of the Legislature. Please withdraw or amend this potentially dangerous legislation."

Signed, "Sally Gibson."

I think that letter says a lot about many of the points I have tried to raise in the Legislature this afternoon and the concerns I have—I think very valid concerns—with this piece of legislation. It certainly, at the very least, opens the door to a lot of potential for abuse in the system, and I do not think that any act of the Legislature that is introduced should contain that potential for abuse within it.

Seeing as how the government House leader—and I see him walking away here—wanted this debate on Bill 147, because somehow he thought it had something to do with free trade, I think we should at least address that point of view before the afternoon is over.

I have in my hand a response that the Honourable John Crosbie has given to a question with respect to this particular piece of legislation and similar pieces of legislation.

"Is Ontario's proposed legislation governing public financing of private health care services in violation of the free trade agreement?" That is the question that was posed to Mr. Crosbie. His answer, which I shall quote, is as follows:

"The controversy seems to centre on Ontario's proposal to give Canadian nonprofit providers preference in the establishment of health care clinics. While we have not had an opportunity to review the entire Ontario bill in detail, it does not appear to contravene either the spirit or the letter of the free trade agreement for three basic reasons.

"First, except for the management services relating to health care and certain very specific, wholly commercial operations, the list of services covered by the FTA does not include health care services. Private health care clinics, such as those set out in the Ontario bill, are not on this list, notwithstanding opposition suggestions to the contrary.

"Second, as I understand it, Ontario has for some time provided public sector funding for private clinics. Since such services are not covered under the services chapter, Ontario and other provinces will continue to have the same prerogatives they have enjoyed in the past in the operation and financing of their health care programs. They are under no obligation, under the FTA, to provide support to any particular private sector initiative, Canadian or American.

"Third, in the terms of the investment chapter, while American firms could conceivably invest in health care infrastructure, including clinics, since such health care services are not listed under the services chapter, provinces would retain full responsibility for the conduct and operation of such facilities. If they elect, for whatever reason, to prefer Canadian over American operators or nonprofit over profit operators, there is nothing in the FTA agreement which limits the provinces' ability to do so.

In short, the FTA simply reflects current provincial practices in the health care area and in no way infringes on their freedom to take steps which they believe are in the best interests of maintaining a world-class system."

I think that should dispel the rumour mill with respect to free trade and this particular legislation. I think members opposite should listen to some of the editorials about this proposed

legislation coming from all parts of the province. There are members in the House in the Liberal Party from all these different parts. We will start with Sudbury because I notice the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) here.

In the Sudbury Star, September 15: "Medical Snoopers. There is no need for new powers by which government inspectors could enter medical offices and seize patients' and doctors' records without the consent of the affected parties or a court order.

"The Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, governing body for the medical profession, raises entirely valid objections to a section of the province's new Independent Health Facilities Act which would allow this procedure. Citizens in this information age need more, not less, legal protection of their privacy.

"The new legislation goes far beyond authority now existing under the Public Hospitals Act which requires a search warrant. It would open the way to all manner of fishing expeditions on both the patient and the doctor. Health minister Elinor Caplan says the legislation is designed only to monitor the quality of care provided in private clinics. That explanation does not justify opening the doors to snoopers.

"The legislation needs specific checks on how monitoring is done. Any seizure of records must certainly involve a court order or a search warrant granted by a judge after presentation of convincing reasons."

That is what the people in Sudbury think of the proposed act.

Mr. Campbell: That's one point of view.

Mr. Eves: Is the member for Sudbury disagreeing with that editorial?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Eves: Perhaps he should say so, if he is. He should go on the record.

Here is the Windsor Star, September 12, 1988. "Health Care: Unwarranted Intrusions" is the head of this editorial—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Eves: The members for Windsor do not want to hear what the Windsor Star has to say about "Health Care: Unwarranted Intrusions."

On motion by Mr. Eves, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

USE OF GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT

107. Mr. McLean: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide a list of all ministers and their staff, other ministry staff, as well as their families and friends, who have used government-owned or leased aircraft during the period August 1, 1987, to December 31, 1987, inclusive? [Tabled April 19, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Elston: A list of all ministers and their staff, other ministry staff, as well as their families and friends, who have used government-owned or leased aircraft during the period August 1, 1987, to December 31, 1987, inclusive, is attached.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Minister and staff: Hon. J. Riddell, L. D'Onofrio.

Other ministry staff: Dr. G. Collin, Dr. J. C. Rennie, M. Roberts, B. Morgan, D. George, S. Sargeant, Dr. J. Pettit, Dr. R. Urquhart, M. L. Webb, Dr. C. Switzer, R. Sequin, H. Ediger.

Others: Dr. J. P. Benz, Dr. J. A. McDonald, Dr. D. Prodan, Dr. D. I. Silver, Dr. J. D. Stowe.

Ministry of the Attorney General

Other ministry staff: J. Little, D. Hewitt, D. Garrow, C. Madeson, R. Cummins, P. Kirby, D. Boshkaykin, C. Fisher, R. Ross, J. McCammon, J. Hatfield, L. Morrison, R. Smart, A. Moffat, R. Mitchell, M. Creed, O. Rich, B. Young, B. Elemond, R. Sabourin, W. Halman, R. Prenol, E. LeClaire, G. Angus, D. Charette, R. Anderson, N. Kinnie.

Ministry of Citizenship

Minister and staff: Hon. G. Phillips, P. Rucker.

Other ministry staff: F. Boden, B. Dickson, L. Legarde, G. Bannon, J. Boulton, C. Potapczyk, F. Gray, M. Podlog.

Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Ministers and staff: Hon. L. McLeod, Hon. G. Sorbara, H. Moncrieff, R. Richardson.

Other ministry staff: M. B. Denomy, V. Fernandes, V. Masih, M. Cressman, R. Jackson, E. Faulkner, R. Pelly, T. Benson, S. Hsu, V. James, L. Moon Wan, D. Simpson, G. Baird, J. Fillatre, M. Muvrin, G. Felipe, D. Anderson, M. Mar, B. Govier, A. Thibou, K. Chang, F. Stevens, C. Sears, E. Durjancik, M. Thomson, J. Bartczak, V. Smith, G. Mistry, C. Jones, R. Brown, S. Henderson, B. Hacio, T. Pucci,

B. Luretig, T. Masetto, J. Towne, C. Mikaliuk, S. Adapoe, L. Orr, F. Lorenowich.

Families: P. Fernandes, T. Masih, R. and K. Cressman, L. Jackson, A. Faulkner, R. Pelly, J. Benson, F. Hsu, N. Malcolm, R. Koo, P. Eaton, P. Bayford, H. Holden, A. Muvrin, S. Felipe, J. Andreson (family members of MCU staff affected by relocation).

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Minister and staff: Hon. J. Sweeney, S. Bornstein.

Other ministry staff: M. Noble, K. Eastham, P. Barnes, P. Landry, E. Sawanas, J. Quequish, T. Lough, B. Windsor, L. Zaffino, K. Williams, D. Durkot, J. Rabeau, R. Nye, D. Norton, P. Noble, D. Hayman, J. Calder, W. Johnson.

Others: There were 10 flights on which young offenders travelled under escort.

Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Minister: Hon. H. Wrye.

Ministry of Correctional Services

Minister and staff: Hon. D. Ramsay, M. Cox, K. Greenaway.

Other ministry staff: R. McDonald, T. McCarroll, L. Crispino, P. Radley, I. Lendvay, R. Watkins, A. Bock, M. Zbar, J. Miller-Ashton, D. Richards, G. Brierley.

Others: D. Maddocks (MGS).

Ministry of Culture and Communications

Other ministry staff: G. Stoll.

Others: P. Herald.

Ministry of Education

Other ministry staff: F. Porter, A. Gouthro, M. Larratt-Smith, R. Houghton, L. Jones.

Others: Mr. and Mrs. W. Newton.

Ministry of Energy

Minister and staff: Hon. R. Wong, J. Robinson, T. Bergen.

Ministry of the Environment

Minister and staff: Hon. J. Bradley.

Other ministry staff: N. McCoven, J. Sprague, D. Sahody, B. Treyling, P. Gale, B. Keller, D. Smith, J. Anderson, G. Van Fleet, L. Katchowski, G. Dolinar, T. Pawson, J. Frye, J. de Bakker, J. Bagshaw, J. Sutton, M. Fowler, W. Giles, B. Steggles, L. Popiel, L. Dowdeswell, R. Shimizu, J. Jabonowski, D. Evans, W. Wager, Y. Hamdy, R. M. McLeod, D. Caplice, D. McTavish, W. Vrooman, K. Hogg, D. Guscott, W. Smits, E. Smith, T. Bronson, J.

Barr, R. Kurtz, C. Burns, B. Weismer, L. Brant, D. Chepil, J. Welsh, L. Wood, R. Thompson, N. Jarvis, J. Haneula, L. Doner, L. Gray, J. Maclaren, K. Millyard, D. McKay, P. Hebert, H. Clare, M. Campbell, T. Vigod, L. Eastcott, D. Vallery, G. Posen, I. McIntyre.

Others: V. Vanogtrop (MNR), G. Grien (MNR), J. Montiece (Ontario Hydro), L. Busch (Ontario Hydro), A. Hakala (MNR).

Ministry of Financial Institutions

Nil.

Ministry of Government Services

Minister: Hon. R. Patton.

Other ministry staff: W. Durham, J. Molici, J. Jackson, A. Thornton, R. Giardetti, J. Squissato, D. P. Caplice, R. W. Riggs, A. Beattie, C. Westerback, G. Hartviksen, M. Chipman, H. Meyer, T. Nugent, B. Lawrence, L. Kornas, B. Tivy, T. Stevens, B. Sobiski, R. Wettlaufer, W. Kembel, J. Matheson, A. Gibson.

Ministry of Health

Minister and staff: Hon. M. Elston, A. Young.

Ministry of Housing

Minister and staff: Hon. C. Hošek, S. Goetz-Gadon.

Other ministry staff: G. Church.

Others: J. Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. T. Cochren, Mr. and Mrs. L. Brubacher.

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology

Ministers and staff: Hon. J. Riddell, Hon. L. Munro, Hon. M. Kwinter, Hon. R. Wong, H. Feldmann, B. Seguin, M. Roberts, T. Bergen, B. Stewart.

Other ministry staff: D. Jure, H. Yazawa, J. Bilyk, F. Traficante, F. Simpkins, R. La Coste, P. Lavelle, R. Latimer, R. Ferraro, A. Ferris, W. Stothers, M. Walmsley.

Others: Y. Hanawa, N. Ochi, R. Hoshino, I. Forsyth, B. Singleton, M. Durdin, D. Beuroy, G. Manseau, P. Taylor (EDU), P. Charney (AG), C. Ross (MNR), B. Stephenson (REV), D. Tieman (MNDM), J. Wojcik, P. O'Connor, K. Ledbetter, R. Taylor, S. Iafrate, G. Grave, R. Graham, J. Freeman, G. Honsen, R. MacDonald, Y. Galipeau, D. Osborne, P. Hulley, T. Routley, P. Hill, N. Degoooy, C. Lovell, N. Thomson, T. Becks, G. Kenmir, W. LeBlanc, P. Kowal, N. Routley, A. Waddell (MIA), M. Drolet (Ontario Hydro).

Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs

Nil.

Ministry of Labour

Minister and staff: Hon. G. Sorbara, J. Duffey.

Other ministry staff: D. Skogstad.

Others: L. Gerrard.

Management Board

Other ministry staff: E. Todres, J. Sloan, S. Alter.

Others: G. Thompson (LAB), R. F. Chaloner (AG).

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Other ministry staff: D. Thompson, B. Campbell, J. Little, G. H. U. Bayly, L. Richardson, J. Meeker, G. Cronin, B. Armstrong, F. Greenland, J. Noonan, C. Currie, J. Court, M. Betts, H. Davidson, J. Alexander, I. Aitcheson.

Ministry of Natural Resources¹

Minister and staff: Hon. V. Kerrio, D. MacDonald.

Other ministry staff: G. Whitney, J. Goodman, R. Christie, G. Tough.

Others: F. Miclash MPP.

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

Ministers and staff: Hon. R. Fontaine, Hon. S. Conway, T. Kozyra MPP, S. Campbell MPP, G. Robitaille, M. MacDonald, M. Brooks.

Other ministry staff: H. Eakins, P. Born, G. Burbridge, D. Byron, D. Ross, D. Charette, R. Sanderson, B. Carson, M. Sweeney, S. Beswick, G. Legault, J. Wykes, G. Grein, T. Skene, J. Bond, F. Breaks, D. Davis, P. Thurston, B. Atkinson, C. Delaney, B. Pyke, L. Brownrigg, S. Courtney, T. Cyr, T. Crosswell, C. Pearce, P. Kennedy, D. Thain, M. Robinson, D. Korpela, R. Lee, S. Hornell, D. Egerland, S. McIntosh, D. Tieman, T. Pitts, J. Wood, M. Bourassa, A. Avolonitis, A. Smith, N. McCowen, J. Sprague, D. Zahody, J. Scott, M. Russell, M. Lavigne, R. Kristjenson, S. Stakew, K. Niskal, T. Godden, R. Schienbein, M. Cuda, T. Rudolph, A. Robinson, A. Fyon, L. O'Donnell, M. Epp, S. Nacha, A. McNeil, C. Dahl, D. Anderson, J. Robertson, M. Hine, B. Russel, C. Storey, C. Ravnaas, L. McMartin, T. Workman, W. Bonitzke, E. Mitrikas, J. Wiome, R. Reid, B. Reilly, P. Blomberg, S. Crawley, G. Patterson, G. Tough, T. Beckett, K. Lacey, R. Campbell, W. Meyer, D. May, W. Lees, H. Aiken, W. Stevenson, P. Overton, J. Menary, M. Green, R. Vrancart, B. Smith, K. Bernier, P. Fernberg, D. James, D. Beard, K. Fenwick, P. Kor, P. Mostow, S. Cassais, M. Kennedy, E. Sherlock, E. Hook, D. Walters, M. Brooks, T. Carter, F. Pagnucco, T. Zach, P. Fox, B. Gates, D. Cowan, K. Waisglass, W. McIlwaine.

Others: J. Kennedy (MNR), J. Gilbert (MNR), J. Yanick (MNR), P. Gilboe (MNR), B. Miron (MNR), D. Bean (MNR), J. Gomm (MNR), D. Coons (MNR), R. Leekham (MNR), A. Martin (MNR), J. McDonald (MNR), F. Brown (MNR), D. Downey, W. Trimble (SG), D. Carr (SG), V. Pakalnis (LAB), S. Yundt (MNR), M. Sypnowich (MUN), plus 39 high school geography teachers, D. St. Pierre (Sudbury Star) and R. Cormier (CICI Sudbury).

Ontario Native Affairs Directorate

Nil.

Ontario Women's Directorate

Nil.

Ministry of Revenue

Nil.

Ministry of Skills Development

Minister and staff: Hon. A. Curling, C. Macpherson.

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Minister: Hon. J. Smith.

Other ministry staff: J. Miller, F. Johnson, B. Purcell, H. Meyer, J. Takach, R. Guillemette, W. Crawford, S. Leindecker, W. Smith, S. Rae, C. Poorweather, T. Crawford, D. Carson, B. Blimkie, T. Carson, B. Crawford, G. Wilson, C. Wesley, C. Waley, R. Krieger, G. Simmond, R. Wilkie, J. Irwin, W. Rosser, R. Graham, G. Spooner, A. Crawford, M. Menard, J. Potts, A. Scott, D. Shaw, M. Hookimaw, R. Peck, C. Churchill, A. Ferris, D. Wood, R. Harriha, D. Moore, R. Buxton, K. Wellstead, W. Rosser, T. Thompson, J. Leutchford, S. Nelson, E. Grey, R. Fleming, K. Buxton, K. Grice, E. Cook, J. McDonald, R. Anstee, D. Jones, J. Wesley, F. Fougere, K. Tucker, P. Martin, P. Hookinson, R. Tucker, H. Vannyck, W. Murumets, L. Cane, M. McMaster, M. Bellager, B. Tierney, R. McDonald, M. Crawford, W. Latham, J. Baranick, G. Stevens, C. Paubst, W. Cybuski, B. Speakman, W. Ferri, L. Doty, R. Neelin, R. Woods, J. Welsh, R. Neil, D. Hewitt, J. Eastick, T. Armstrong, A. Cordeiro, B. Lowry, H. Rawluk, H. Holmes, P. Millar, R. McMillian, P. Trivette, P. Schuett, S. Wall, R. Cooke, A. Legros, S. Baxter, J. McKay, R. Cooke, E. Jones, L. Gibson, W. Jonasson, B. Boissoneau, C. Opzoomer, P. Miller, B. McMillian, E. Grenier, M. Andrews, D. Leney, G. Laporth, S. Laporth, B. Laporth, G. Lucas, D. Munn, N. Mitchell, L. Veenendaal, J. Dias, D. O'Sullivan, K. Moss, J. Osborne, R. Mequanawap, R. Weeks, W. Horseman, F. Rose.

Families: Mrs. B. Tierney and child, Mrs. R. McDonald, Mrs. B. Crawford (family members of SOL staff affected by relocation).

MNR staff: M. Fowler, H. Brelschudir, M. Bird, B. Small, M. Sisson, P. Lauer, S. Kenrick, D. Ross, L. Rotte, L. Regos, L. Guinn, C. Guinn, B. Hutchinson.

MGS staff: W. Durham, A. Durham, B. Daschuck, C. Rimmer, T. Edwards, H. Brerton, J. Pustiva, B. Logget, E. Bonderenko, B. Shoggett, W. Purnam, W. Daschuck.

There were approximately 75 other persons who travelled as prisoners in custody.

Ministry of Tourism and Recreation

Minister and staff: Hon. H. O'Neil, P. Wilkinson, M. Komori, J. McDonald.

Other ministry staff: J. Keenan, A. McCall, R. Tindale, R. Zizman, M. Furlong, D. Forbes, L. Arnold, D. Van Wagoner, B. Outschoorn, R. Secord, J. Halstead, R. Cornish, A. Athanasakos.

Others: C. Hawksworth.

Ministry of Transportation

Other ministry staff: M. Lesage, G. Kam, G. Gibson, P. Greenwood, B. Jonasson, J. Mousseau, G. Guy, R. Moore, V. Schaaf, T. Watson, J. Savela, E. Hickin, K. Kelly, R. Tornquist, D. Shaw, S. Peet, K. Stein, A. Simard, K. Jonasson, G. Trudel, J. Rejczak, J. Sprenkle, R. Stewart, P. Harasemchuck, W. Ranney, L. Authier, D. Moorhouse, P. Lennox, D. Flegal, R. Adams, M. Kanate, C. Brown, E. Kokanan, G. Bates, J. Kranyak, G. Reguly, J. Vanginkle, S. McGregor, R. Brown, A. Brown, B. Cunningham, P. Ducharme, Y. Mah, M. Peechapman, E. Peechapman, N. Eluik, K. Pickering, R. Kanate, A. Kozy, G. Moore, J. Tron, D. Lowman, W. Ranney, J. Albany, J. Chichka, G. Dean, D. Hobbs, M. Kelch, R. Smith, R. Madill, G. Brown, M. Gull.

Others: M. Fabras, L. Farrant, T. Frisky, P. Inglis, W. Krestel, M. Huff (Agriculture and Food), A. Eyre.

Families: J. Peechapman (family member of MOT staff affected by relocation).

Ministry of Treasury and Economics

Ministers and staff: Hon. R. Nixon, Hon. M. Kwinter, T. Stephen, K. Rosenberg.

Other ministry staff: B. Purchase, M. Mogford, M. Gourley, A. Evans, K. Bouey, Q. Silk, R. Watson.

Others: B. Davies (MFI).

Senior Citizens Affairs

Nil.

Office for Disabled Persons

Minister and staff: Hon. T. Ruprecht, I. Purdie, J. Carriero.

Cabinet Office

Other staff: R. Carman, P. Jacobsen, L. Stevens.

Others: M. Mogford, B. Davies, J. Sloan, H. Ezrin, J. Whitelaw.

Office of the Premier

Due to security considerations, the Premier's travel arrangements/expenditures are reviewed in camera by the subcommittee of the standing committee on public accounts. Attached for your information is a letter from Ed Philip, chairman of the standing committee on public accounts, confirming this established procedure. (See appendix I.)

Note 1: The Ministry of Natural Resources uses both owned and chartered aircraft extensively to carry out normal workday tasks. A list of just a few of these tasks would include transporting firefighters to fires, conservation officers on animal census/ enforcement work and fur management officers on trips to northern communities.

In the period of time covered by question 107, MNR field programs utilized in the order of 5,000 flights carrying in the order of 10,000 passengers. A compilation of the passenger lists for these flights would require several person-months of time to complete. Consequently the details of regular MNR field operations flights have not been shown. The only flights covered here are those in which the minister used a government-owned or leased aircraft during the period from August 1, 1987, to December 31, 1987.

Appendix I

May 24, 1988

Honourable David Peterson, MPP
Premier
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

I am writing on behalf of the standing committee on public accounts with respect to committee review of your travel expenditure records.

During the 33rd Parliament, the committee adopted the following procedure: travel expenditures of the Premier are to be reviewed in camera by the subcommittee of the standing committee on public accounts, and if any outstanding questions remain, these matters would be brought forward to the full committee for review.

In accordance with the committee's procedure, I would request that arrangements be made to provide the committee with your travel expenditure records for review by the subcommittee. The records requested would cover the last half of fiscal year 1986-87 and the 1987-88 fiscal year, ending March 31, 1988.

The committee appreciates your assistance in arranging for forwarding of the above to the subcommittee through the committee clerk, Douglas Arnott.

Yours sincerely, Ed Philip, MPP, chairman.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

324. Mr. Rae: Would the Attorney General inform the House how many actions have been commenced in (a) the Supreme Court, (b) the district court, (c) small claims courts throughout Ontario outside of Metro Toronto and (d) the provincial court, civil division, small claims courts of Metropolitan Toronto, by American Express as the plaintiff in 1987 and thus far in 1988? [Tabled June 7, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: As court offices are not computerized, some 300,000 records would have to be reviewed manually to meet this request. This would require approximately 350 clerical staff in the 154 offices involved to spend between one half to one hour each reviewing records with the resultant disruptions to normal court services. In approximately half the offices this task would have to be carried out on an overtime basis at substantial expense to the ministry. The cost in person-hours required to answer this question is excessive and as such cannot be justified.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD

343. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of applications for compensation filed with the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in the 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: There were 2,000 applications for compensation filed with the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in the 1986-1987 year.

344. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of awards ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: There were 1,376 awards ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year.

345. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the total value of awards ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The total value of awards ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during the 1986-87 year was \$4,310,085.36.

346. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the total value of awards recovered, in whole or in part, by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during the 1986-87 year through its right of subrogation? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The total value of awards recovered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during the 1986-87 year through its right of subrogation was \$61,962.

352. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of applications for compensation filed with the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board by sexual assault victims in the 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: There were 248 applications for compensation filed with the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board by sexual assault victims in the 1986-87 year.

353. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of awards to sexual assault victims ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: There were 104 awards to sexual assault victims ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year.

354. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the total value of awards to sexual assault victims ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year. [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The total value of awards to sexual assault victims ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year was \$636,906.47.

370. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide a breakdown of the awards to victims of sexual assault ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in 1986-87, detailing the amounts awarded for (1) medical expenses, (2) lost earnings, (3) pain and

suffering, (4) legal fees, (5) other pecuniary loss and (6) other factors? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The amounts awarded for (1) medical expenses was \$14,039.03, (2) for lost earnings was \$15,346.55, (3) for pain and suffering was \$566,100.00, (4) for legal fees was \$15,600.00, (5) for other pecuniary loss was \$25,820.89.

371. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide an explanation of the criteria used by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to establish a bona fide medical expense, and would he describe the extent (if any) to which counselling costs qualify as medical expenses? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The criteria used by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to establish a bona fide medical expense and the extent to which counselling costs qualify as medical expenses are as follows: (1) a medical bill or receipt; (2) counselling costs qualify as a medical expense if provided by a medical doctor; (3) other counselling and rehabilitation costs may be recovered as expenses at the discretion of the board under section 25 of the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Act.

372. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the criteria used by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in determining whether or not to launch a civil action (using the board's right of subrogation) to recover awards paid out? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The criteria used by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to determine whether or not to launch a civil action to recover awards paid out (using the board's right of subrogation) are as follows: (1) offender being gainfully employed or having assets; (2) offender is locatable.

374. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for each of the last 10 years, the average award paid out by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to all victims, and the average award paid out by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to women? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The amounts listed are the average awards paid out by the board to all victims for each of the last 10 years: 1977-78, \$2,328; 1978-79, \$1,961; 1979-80, \$2,060; 1980-81, \$2,132; 1981-82, \$2,303; 1982-83, \$2,452; 1983-84, \$2,870; 1984-85, \$2,480; 1985-86, \$2,733; 1986-87, \$2,451.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board does not currently maintain separate statistics for

men and women. However, I have been advised that this matter is under active consideration and these statistics will be available in the future.

347. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of actions launched by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board using its power of subrogation in an attempt to recover awards ordered during the 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

348. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last year in which the statistic is available, the percentage of actions launched by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (using its right of subrogation) that were successful? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

349. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last year in which the statistic is available, the amount of damages obtained by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in civil actions launched using its right of subrogation, expressed as a percentage of the total amount of awards paid out by the board in the same cases? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

350. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of awards ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during 1986-87 in cases where the offenders were known and still living? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

351. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General list the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board awards ordered during 1986-87 for which the offenders, though known and still living, were not named in civil actions to recover all or part of the awards using the board's right of subrogation, and would the Attorney General state in each case the reason the right of subrogation was not used, including (1) offender impecunious, (2) offender judgement proof, (3) cost of recovery too high, (4) victim unwilling to testify, (5) other reasons? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

355. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the total value of awards to sexual assault victims recovered, in whole or in part, by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during the 1986-87 year through its right of subrogation? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

356. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of actions launched by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board using its power of subrogation in an attempt to recover awards to sexual assault victims ordered during the 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

357. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last year in which the statistic is available, the percentage of actions involving sexual assault launched by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (using its right of subrogation) that were successful? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

358. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last year in which the statistic is available, the amount of damages obtained by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in civil actions involving sexual assault launched using its right of subrogation, expressed as a percentage of the total amount of awards paid out by the board in the same cases? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

359. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of awards to sexual assault victims ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during 1986-87 in cases where the offenders were known and still living? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

360. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General list the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board awards to sexual assault victims ordered during 1986-87 for which the offenders, though known and still living, were not named in civil actions to recover all or part of the awards using the board's right of subrogation, and would the Attorney General state in each case the reason the right of subrogation was not used, including (1) offender impecunious, (2) offender judgement proof, (3) cost of recovery too high, (4) victim unwilling to testify, (5) other reasons? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

361. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of applications for compensation filed with the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board by women in the 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

362. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of awards to women ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

363. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the total value of awards to women ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during its 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

364. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the total value of awards to women recovered, in whole or in part, by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

during the 1986-87 year through its right of subrogation? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

365. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of actions launched by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board using its power of subrogation in an attempt to recover awards to women ordered during the 1986-87 year? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

366. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last year in which the statistic is available, the percentage of actions involving crimes against women launched by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (using its right of subrogation) that were successful? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

367. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last year in which the statistic is available, the amount of damages obtained by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in civil actions involving crimes against women launched using its right of subrogation, expressed as a percentage of the total amount of awards paid out by the board in the same cases? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

368. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide the number of awards to women ordered by the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board during 1986-87 in cases where the offenders were known and still living? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

369. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General list the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board awards to women ordered during 1986-87 for which the offenders, though known and still living, were not named in civil actions to recover all or part of the awards using the board's right of subrogation, and would the Attorney General state in each case the reason the right of subrogation was not used, including (1) offender impecunious, (2) offender judgement proof, (3) cost of recovery too high, (4) victim unwilling to testify, (5) other reasons. [Tabled June 22, 1988]

373. Mr. Jackson: Would the Attorney General provide, for the last 10 years, the number of applications annually filed by women with the Ontario Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and the number of those applications which resulted in the order of an award? [Tabled June 22, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The Ministry of the Attorney General is unable to answer questions 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369 and 373 as the Criminal Injuries Compensation

Board does not maintain and is not yet adequately computerized to compile the required statistics. The cost of compiling this information manually is excessive and cannot be justified. An effort has been made to answer those questions where the information is more readily available. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is currently being computerized and will upon completion of that process maintain statistics including the required statistics.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

378. Mr. McLean: Would the Minister of Government Services provide the cost for setting up my constituency office at 29 Main Street, Penetanguishene, including the costs for furniture and office equipment and the cost for shipping that furniture and office equipment [Tabled October 19, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Patten: The setting up of members' constituency offices is not under the jurisdiction of the government but is under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly. The information can be obtained by the member from the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

INTERIM ANSWERS

375. Mr. Jackson: Hon. Mr. Wong—Additional time will be required to respond to the question. The response will be available on or about November 25, 1988.

376. Mr. Cooke: Hon. Mr. Elston—Because of the costing detail required by this question, the answer will be co-ordinated by the Management Board secretariat. Allowing time for all travel claims to be submitted and processed, the answer should be available on or about February 21, 1989.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Sessional paper P-7, re Sunday shopping.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The government has concluded that municipalities should have the option to decide retail hours on Sundays and other holidays and has introduced legislation to accomplish this.

The new law contains standard store closing rules for all of Ontario. These standard rules will remain in place unless a municipality decides for its own reasons to alter the law to reflect its own values or needs. It may do this by permitting stores to open or requiring them to close on Sundays and holidays. Municipalities are entitled to make this choice for themselves.

Under amendments to the Employment Standards Act, all retail workers will be able to refuse Sunday work which is, in their view, unreasonable, and the legislation will protect workers against reprisals. Employers and employees will be encouraged to work out co-operative arrangements for Sundays. If no settlement is reached through mediation, the matter will be referred to an independent referee.

The current law has been found to be unenforceable and has been abused by some retailers. The proposed amendments provide a workable, fair and flexible solution to the issue of Sunday and holiday shopping.

CHILD CARE

Sessional paper P-24, re day care.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The Ministry of Community and Social Services responds to the sessional paper in the following manner.

Significant parent participation on child care centre boards and information sharing were important recommendations of the 1987 Special Report on Child Care prepared by the select committee on health.

Informed parental involvement is, in fact, a key ingredient in the development of Ontario's comprehensive child care system. MCSS recognized, for instance, in its New Directions For Child Care document, that this principle can provide a significant check on the quality of care and on the issue of program and financial accountability.

In Ontario, the process of expanding opportunities for meaningful parental involvement will be undertaken through public education programs for parents, board training and development, and clearer parent information, such as the new posting system for parent feedback on licensing requirements.

MCSS recognizes that the growth of community-based nonprofit child care operations will be an evolutionary process, as it will take time to build the necessary community resources in support of greater parent involvement. This factor will be taken into consideration as we move towards new child care legislation in this province.

Although it would be premature at this stage to mandate particular board structures or compositions, this ministry would anticipate that future legislation will ensure that parent users will have an active, meaningful role in which their children's nurturing and development are entrusted.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Sessional paper P-29, re workers' compensation.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Bill 162 will provide fairer compensation for workers who suffer from permanent disability as a result of a work-related injury or illness. In addition, the bill makes provision for a new award to recognize the long-term noneconomic consequences of a workplace injury.

The bill responds to the recommendations of the Task Force Report on Workers' Compensation Board Vocational Rehabilitation Services by emphasizing the important objective of assisting injured workers' return to work. It does so by placing an obligation on the Workers' Compensation Board to provide needed vocational rehabilitation services on the basis of early intervention. The bill will ensure that injured workers play an active role in the design of their vocational rehabilitation program.

Bill 162 also places an obligation upon employers to re-employ injured workers upon their recovery. And it authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to levy penalties against those employers who fail to live up to this obligation.

The bill also places an obligation upon employers to maintain contributions and thus the coverage of an injured worker's health care, life insurance and pension benefit programs.

The bill raises the wage coverage ceiling from the current \$35,100 to 175 per cent of the average industrial wage, estimated to currently be \$44,000.

Accordingly, the government of Ontario intends to proceed with this legislation to transform the workers' compensation system into one which is much fairer and more effective.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
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 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
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 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
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 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
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 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
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 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
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 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
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 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
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 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
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 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
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 Mclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

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 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)

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Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

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Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

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Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
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 Walkerville L)

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Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

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Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

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 (St. George-St. David L)

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Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, November 8, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 8, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: People in Metropolitan Toronto must wonder where they are going to get their next \$189, because \$189 from now, the average price of a resale home in Metro Toronto will be \$250,000. The average price of a resale home in Metropolitan Toronto stands now at \$249,811. That is an increase of 28 per cent in the last year and 121 per cent over the last three years. People now must have a family income of \$86,000 to qualify with the minimum down payment and the mortgage payments that would flow from that.

What does the Premier (Mr. Peterson) say? What does the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) say? Yesterday I asked the Premier that and he looked as though he was in a London fog as he passed off the question to his Treasurer. The Treasurer said, as he has on past occasions, "There's not much we can do, you know." A year ago he said, "It's just a passing phase." He said, "Well, it's peaked now and it will probably subside in the months to come."

We have not seen the price increase subsiding one whit. Prices are still increasing at an ever-increasing rate and this government still refuses to impose a land or speculation tax for non-residential units, non-principal-residence units. The government simply refuses to do anything about it and watches the prices escalate forever upward.

PRAYERS IN LEGISLATURE

Mr. Jackson: On November 1 the New Democratic Party member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) stood in the Legislature to propose that we stop using the Lord's Prayer. I cannot agree. The recent Ontario Court of Appeal ruling on school prayer deals with the narrow question of coercion of children. The court did not say that government and public institutions must take a position of religious neutrality. Both the Bill of Rights and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms say Canada was founded

upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God. Each day members of this Legislature recognize that supremacy by praying for guidance and strength.

Canadian multiculturalism means acceptance of religious differences, not the complete abolition of religion as the NDP proposes. Twenty years ago, the Mackay report said this about the link between religion and culture: "Many public functions in the province of Ontario, such as convocations, opening of the Legislature, and public meetings, are begun with...the reciting of a prayer.... Such opening ceremonies are indeed intrinsic in the culture of the province of Ontario.... To eliminate [them] would suggest that religion is not an integral part of the life of the people of this province. It is the committee's view that religion does indeed play a vital role in our life."

The Lord's Prayer is a meaningful prayer which forms part of the cultural heritage of 90 per cent of Ontarians, and I urge all members to join me in rising to its defence.

DRUG AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to bring to the members' attention the upcoming Drug Awareness Week in Peel, which will be observed from November 13 to 18 this year. Last Friday, I attended the Peel Drug Awareness Week kickoff at the Credit Valley Hospital's new community program centre. They featured a variety of literature, computerized wellness checks and posters, and they also introduced us to several excellent videos, aimed at teenagers, which will be used to highlight this week's programs.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Try HUGS, not drugs." HUGS is an acronym for "Helping, understanding, growing strong," and it makes a very appropriate slogan.

The Credit Valley Hospital has taken a very progressive role in helping to combat the abuse of alcohol and drugs by offering an alcohol and drug treatment program that provides a comprehensive range of treatment resources to individuals with alcohol or drug problems. It also offers services to family members and others closely related to the chemically-dependent person. As we have seen, this disease affects not only the

victim but all those associated with him or her as well.

Among the excellent services that are being offered at Credit Valley's treatment centre are orientation groups, day treatment, follow-up treatment, family treatment, self-help groups and inpatient alcohol and drug screening. As the recent report of the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) indicated to this House, we must do everything we can to assist in the demise of these abuses. We must continue to highlight, not only for one week but for 52 weeks of the year, the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse to the residents of Ontario.

HURRICANE JOAN

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Hurricane Joan hit Nicaragua weeks ago now. Quite a number of days ago, I raised in this House, with the unanimous consent of this House, the concept that this province should be putting some money into assisting. The federal government, which started off with a meagre \$200,000, has now upped the amount of money to well in excess of \$1 million, finally recognizing that it should separate itself from the Bush-Reagan coattails and show a little independence of foreign policy. But I am a little distressed to say that this Liberal reform government, to this date, has still not moved in giving the disaster relief assistance that is so desperately needed by that country, which has been so hard hit.

I do not know when they are going to decide upon this—there is some talk it may actually go to cabinet in the next day or so—but at some point or other, one has to realize that disaster relief is needed immediately. That is the nature of a disaster. Long-term assistance to a Third World country is another matter.

I just implore members of the Liberal Party and the Liberal caucus to push their cabinet colleagues to come forward with a bit of generosity tomorrow that may help those people who are suffering so badly in that Central American country.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. J. M. Johnson: As we are all aware, Friday of this week, November 11, is Remembrance Day, and most members will be joining with their local legions to once again take part in the annual parade to the cenotaph and the laying of wreaths at war memorials in remembrance of those who were killed in action during the two world wars and the Korean War.

It is the Royal Canadian Legion which has kept alive the spirit and meaning of this special day. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the many legion branches in our province in recognition of their ongoing service to the people of Ontario and the outstanding contribution they have made to the improvement of life in our province and our country.

I am very proud to be an honorary member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 134, Mount Forest, and I know first hand of the many community projects the members of this legion undertake on behalf of the citizens of their community. I am equally proud of the community activities of the other seven legion branches in my riding of Wellington and indeed of all the legions across this great country of ours.

I know all members of the Ontario Legislature will join with me in paying tribute to the Royal Canadian Legion in all parts of our great province and wish it continued success in all its endeavours.

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Mr. Owen: All of us believe that we should suitably recognize those involved in the world wars. On November 11, we will attend cenotaph services, but most people in our ridings will not.

A number of years ago, an earlier government introduced a kit for our schools to more graphically communicate the significance of Armistice Day to our children. Could we try a different approach? We still have veterans with us who were there. Could they not visit the schools and share personal insights of what happened? Many legions, like those in Bradford, sponsor essay and poster contests in the schools.

The risks of nuclear war have forced us into an era of compromise and an uneasy peace. However, we could better understand the world wars if we would but look to the expressions coming out of those events. Their literature, music, poetry and art clearly tell us how it was. Could we not again look at the writings of John McCrae and Robert Service? Did members know that three of the greatest hits of the First World War were written by a Canadian: *Mademoiselle from Armentières*, *I Want To Go Home* and *Dear Old Pal of Mine*?

Outstanding First World War painters included A. Y. Jackson, Frederick Varley, Arthur Lismer and Franz Johnston. In the Second World War, Alex Colville showed us the obscenity of Belsen camp and Lawren Harris depicted the brutality and tenderness of the battles.

Could we mount an exhibit of the art, literature and music of the wars, touring it throughout the

province, visiting schools and libraries? That might better remind us of how and why.

WELLAND-THOROLD BY-ELECTION

Mr. B. Rae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I wonder if I might introduce to the House the newly elected member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Kormos), who is here for the first time. I am sure members would want to join with me in celebrating this great occasion.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL

Mr. B. Rae: The other day, the Minister of Natural Resources and I had an exchange in the House where we discussed the question of his bill on water transfers outside Ontario. Since that exchange, the minister went outside the House and told the media he was prepared to accept amendments which would guarantee that there would be no such transfers. I have since written the minister an open letter and passed him some very specific amendments to the bill, which we are going to be discussing tomorrow.

Can the minister tell us today whether or not he is prepared to introduce the amendments I have passed on to him?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, the honourable member must realize that when I give my word I stand behind it. I also remind him that the federal government responded to the bill that was put on the table here and passed an amendment, because after examining the free trade agreement—maybe having not read it before—Mr. Crosbie found out that in fact water was jeopardized. The Tory leader in Ottawa decided that our water was at risk after he read the account—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio:—and we took the initiative in the province, as the Canadian government should have done.

I feel very proud in answering the leader of the official opposition. He has sent me a letter and asked me to consider amendments. I certainly do not propose to take them all, but those that are appropriate certainly will be considered.

Mr. B. Rae: Just so we understand the difference between us, the amendments I sent to the minister are essential if the bill is to stop the transfer of water outside this jurisdiction. That is what those amendments do.

I would like to ask the minister something, if I may. It says here—

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I thought I would try that for size.

Mr. Speaker: Please go ahead.

Mr. B. Rae: I am so used to having the peanut gallery over here that I am not used to having it over there, and it is hard for me to accept it.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for a question.

Mr. B. Rae: It is coming, Mr. Speaker.

The bill that the minister has presented to us today says, "The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate." That is the nub; that is the very centre of the government's legislation.

I want to ask the minister whether or not he accepts our amendments, which would in fact make it impossible for payments to be made because we would be stopping any such transfers out of this jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sure the honourable member would want to take into account that where there are transfers between the provinces, in some cases it might be most appropriate. The fact of the matter is that this government, from the day of its inception here, decided that there should be a real will to have interprovincial trade and there was a great deal of dialogue with other provinces on many other issues. Of course, the fact that there are areas where we could have water traded between provinces is, I think, a very good one in keeping with the national good.

Having said that, I am sure the honourable leader understands, and I have told him, that I will accept amendments that would make that more secure, and I propose to do that. The bill is going to be dealt with tomorrow. There is going to be debate. I am not suggesting that I am going to accept all of the amendments that he has put forward. Not by any stretch of the imagination do I propose to allow the opposition benches to govern. I think that is our role over here and I think I went far enough in saying that we should co-operate with the opposition when it has some concern; but ultimately, we will make the decision that is in the best interests of Ontarians and Canadians.

Mr. B. Rae: I am astonished. The minister rose in his place at the end of June and read out a statement saying that we needed to have the legislation he was presenting because of the free trade agreement and because he wanted to assert Ontario's jurisdiction, he wanted to close the

door to the possibility of exports out of the province of Ontario.

Now he is standing in his place and saying that the purpose of the bill is entirely different: it has to do with transfers out of Ontario to other provinces. Manitoba or Quebec presumably are so water starved that they are dying for Ontario's water. It is an absurd proposition and the minister knows that.

I want to ask the minister why he is afraid to stand in his place and say that he will accept amendments that will have the effect of prohibiting exports from the province of Ontario, period; no ifs, ands or buts, no; payments, no cash, no ChargeX, no MasterCard, no nothing, no transfers, no water outside the province.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: If that gentleman is suggesting that we should not trade with our sister provinces, I am astounded at his attitude. I cannot believe that a responsible member of this parliament could make such a statement. I suggested to the honourable member, and I mean to keep my word, that if he has some concern about the free trade of our water to the United States of America, I am very much prepared to accept an amendment that deals with that issue.

I cannot make it any plainer to the honourable member, but I certainly would want to keep in mind that we are making a real commitment in putting forward co-operation between the various provinces in this jurisdiction, in Canada. I think that is one of the problems we are having right now with the federal government. They want to enter into free trade with the Americans and they do not have free trade across the provinces in this country.

1350

ELECTRICAL POWER

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. There is a bill standing in the name of the minister that we had been told originally was to be called this week. It is Bill 168, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act. We have now been told the bill is not going to be debated and is not part of the government's strategy. I do not know why that is the case, why the government has pulled the bill; maybe it is that it is meaningless.

When there is a recommendation from a standing committee of this House, which I understand had the approval of all three parties, dealing specifically with the question of the price of energy in northern Ontario, can the minister tell us why the amendments he has introduced do not include a specific commitment to reduce

energy prices in economically disadvantaged areas such as northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wong: The first answer is that all of the fundamental amendments to the Power Corporation Act are expected to be introduced into the Legislature later this year, so the original amendments the Leader of the Opposition had been referring to, as they pertain to free trade, can now be included with all the amendments in a more efficient way.

Mr. B. Rae: Is the minister then saying about the bill the government introduced with such fanfare as part of its campaign against the free trade bill—it was introduced with such headlines, which we saw, and all the government press releases in June 1988—that it is now the position of the government that this bill in fact is being withdrawn? Is that what he is saying?

Hon. Mr. Wong: No. What I am saying is that these amendments were originally introduced two months ago. In view of the fact that we are closer to introducing all of the amendments fundamental to the changes of the Power Corporation Act, we will do it all at the same time.

Mr. B. Rae: I think I hear the sounds of a retreat. It is not clear, but I think that is what it is.

The government introduces this as part of its campaign against free trade and says this is the bill that is going to really establish Ontario's jurisdiction with respect to power. The Liberal Party of Ontario says it wants to stop this free trade deal and these are the bottom lines and this is what it is going to do.

The minister is now telling us that all that has happened is that Bill 168 is now dead as a doornail, that he has no intention of calling the bill, which is what I hear the minister saying, and that we have to wait for some future time, some future date for the Liberal Party to finally get it together when it comes to power.

Can the minister tell us why he and his government have so desperately dropped the ball on free trade, on power exports and on water exports? The bills they said last June were going to establish Ontario's jurisdiction are now out the window. Can the minister tell us why?

Hon. Mr. Wong: At the risk of repeating myself, we have been working for a lengthy period of time on fundamental changes to the Power Corporation Act. It is quite clear that this government's position is to make sure that when we are talking about electricity exports, any electricity that is exported from Ontario to the

United States should be surplus to Ontario's needs. This is what was introduced originally.

Mr. B. Rae: That is already the law in Canada. He knows that.

Hon. Mr. Wong: That does not necessarily mean it would happen if the free trade agreement were executed, so we are asserting our position and have stated that position. When the amendments to the Power Corporation Act are finally introduced into the Legislature, I hope the honourable members will see the wisdom of the course of action this government has taken.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S SUPERCOMPUTER

Mr. Brandt: My question to the Premier is with respect to the supercomputer that was put into the University of Toronto by his government. I would like to indicate to him that although some \$20 million has been spent on this particular project, it appears that a further bailout is going to be necessary.

The Premier will recall that when this project was first announced with great fanfare by his government in April 1986, he was warned by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations that this particular computer may well not serve the needs of the University of Toronto and other users and may well be far too expensive.

We now have spent some \$20 million on the project and it appears that because of the deficit in the operation, far more money is going to be spent in order to make this a viable operation. Can the Premier indicate how much more money will be needed as a result of the bad decision his government made with respect to this particular purchase?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer tells me he is quite familiar with all the details of this.

Mr. Brandt: Well, I will speak to the Treasurer about it then.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is not exactly the communication I whispered in the Premier's ear.

The honourable member is referring to the first announcement of the purchase of the supercomputer and I believe he has it slightly incorrect. It was announced by Premier Frank Miller as part of Enterprise Ontario. Actually, when we took office, an announcement had been made that a supercomputer should be part of the research facility, and frankly, I believed then, as I believe now, that the decision was correct.

The University of Toronto, in conjunction with other universities, had put forward a very

strong proposal for support from the resources of the community and the government of Ontario for the purchase of the supercomputer, and certainly, in association with the initiative the Premier took by way of technology and competitiveness, it was deemed by us that the decision taken by the previous administration should be supported.

Mr. Brandt: The decision by the previous administration, just to clarify it for the Treasurer, was not a final decision. It was conceptual at that point, as he well knows. It is interesting to note that six months after the purchase, which he made a decision on and which he did not study adequately in his rush to come out with some kind of a media splash, the price went down on that particular computer.

It is also interesting to note—the Treasurer frequently speaks about the need to be careful about the expenditure of taxpayers' money—that the University of Waterloo, in approximately the same time frame, purchased a computer of a comparable type with its own money for a cost of \$2.1 million. I might add further that they are covering the cost of the operation of that computer by the user fees that are associated with that particular computer.

How can the Treasurer justify the decision that his government, not a previous government, made, resulting in the absolute economic boondoggle that has now occurred with respect to the purchase of that computer?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am not one to downplay the importance of conception in these important matters, but I do want to mention that the University of Toronto has a plan whereby at least part of the financing will be borne by the private sector, which has a need for utilization of supercomputer capabilities.

My own feeling, however, is that it ought to be available for the kinds of research that engineers, mathematicians, environmentalists, economists and many other people who work at that university and other post-secondary institutions are undertaking. My own feeling is very strongly in support of the concept of having this important facility in Ontario, and I believe it is a valuable adjunct to our post-secondary facilities.

Mr. Brandt: I do not take issue with the Treasurer with respect to his final remarks, but I again remind him that the location of the computer was a decision of his government and it was a decision we did not support because there were locations that would have been far less expensive to the Ontario taxpayer.

What we now find is that the computer may well have to be replaced in three years, that it requires an expensive upgrading and that it may require—is the Treasurer ready for this?—a new location, which we told the government in the beginning should probably be at the University of Waterloo.

Will the Treasurer own up to the mistakes that were made with respect to this decision in his rush to create the media splash he did? He has wasted Ontario taxpayers' money. Will he now indicate how much more it is going to cost to bail him out of a very, very expensive mistake, which he, not a previous government, made?

1400

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The media splash stuff just does not ring true.

The honourable member is now saying that the only thing we did wrong somehow was its location. I think at the time, if my memory serves me correctly, there was a proposal from McMaster in conjunction with the University of Guelph. As a graduate in science from McMaster myself, I thought that would have been a good idea, but on careful balance, it was decided it should be located at the University of Toronto so that it would be available for a somewhat broader application of the kind of research that requires supercomputer facilities if it is going to be, as we say on this side, world-class.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Education. In July, his ministry officials denied the existence of any deal for the transfer of property between the Lakehead public and separate school boards. Last Friday, a group of concerned parents, operating under a freedom-of-information request, obtained a copy of this secret deal. This deal, involving officials of his ministry, sets out the transfer of Lakeview High School to the separate school board. The ministry denied the existence of this secret deal. We have now established that there was a secret deal. Did the minister know about it?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Let me begin by letting the member know that in fact there is no secret deal. Under the terms of the legislation that extended separate school funding, there is a provision that coterminous boards of education meet through a joint committee to plan for the utilization of facilities.

It is my understanding those meetings took place at the Lakehead between the public and the separate boards to talk about the future disposition of surplus space, which may or may not have

existed within the public school system. Those boards together worked out an arrangement and any agreement that exists at the Lakehead for the utilization of existing school space is a result of those negotiations.

Mr. Jackson: I asked the minister if he had any specific knowledge of this deal, which the ministry denied existed and which the parents and students affected had no knowledge existed. This memo I referred to is signed by a member of the minister's staff, Fred Porter, who is acting regional director of education. On page 2, it specifically states, "F. Clifford would obtain the minister's approval and notify F. Porter by March 31, 1988."

Can the minister stand in this House and assure us that he has no knowledge of this secret deal, or did he have knowledge of this secret deal to transfer the properties in Thunder Bay?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I do not know how I can convey it any more clearly to the member for Burlington South. There is a requirement under the Education Act that coterminous boards meet in joint session to come up with arrangements relative to the use of surplus space that may exist in the public school system. An agreement was arrived at between the public and separate boards. There is no secret relative to that fact. Second, as to whether or not the ministry or the minister would get in the way of a mandated responsibility of coterminous boards under Bill 30, I frankly do not think that would be appropriate.

Mr. Jackson: The minister is operating behind closed doors. He is forcing the public to go to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to get at the truth of what is going on. These are matters of substance. During the Bill 30 debate, the government rejected amendments that were proposed by our party which called for an open and public process so that these kinds of secret deals were not done behind the backs of parents and students. The minister rejected those amendments. Again, with the situation in Hamilton-Wentworth, we called upon him to make the process more open and more public.

Will he not now agree that Bill 30 should be amended to allow for a public process, so we do not see a repeat of these backroom, behind-the-scenes deals that are not known by the students and the boards affected?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I suspect the member has been so busy in the pursuit of the leadership of that motley crew over there that he is now out of touch with what has gone on in this province over

the course of the past 12 months. In fact, from one end of Ontario to another coterminous public and separate school boards have been meeting and making arrangements to utilize the public's investment in schools and utilize space that is surplus to the requirement of public boards throughout Ontario.

There have been no secret undertakings in this regard. The letter he refers to is a document that I directed the regional office to release and make available to the parents there, so that they could understand fully what transpired.

The last point I would like to make is that the requirement of the legislation and the regulations for any board that wishes to close a school for whatever reason whatsoever is that the public must be involved, that public meetings must be held. I expect those regulations will be followed and are being followed at the Lakehead.

Mr. Jackson: You had already signed off the school and then started public hearings. It's a farce.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for Burlington South. The member had his opportunity.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY CROWN EMPLOYEES

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Attorney General. Civil servants in Ontario are not allowed to canvass during an election. They are not allowed to make statements at public meetings. Does the Attorney General feel that fair, particularly in the light of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision that such restrictions on federal civil servants are contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to welcome the honourable member back to the Legislature. I am grateful for his participation in question period.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Don't you ever get up without taking a shot at somebody? Why can't you answer his question?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He's a good pitcher but a bad catcher, that guy.

Hon. Mr. Scott: If the member for Windsor-whatever would like to ask me a question, I would be glad to deal with it. At the moment, I am trying to deal with the question presented by the honourable member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. For some reason, members of his front bench do not want him to get this answer. But the reality is—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Philip: I believe that the minister, instead of taking cheap shots, might have answered my question. Can he have an opportunity to answer the first question before I ask a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: No. Supplementary.

Mr. Philip: I will ask my supplementary. In 1985, the Liberal government went on record as saying it favoured extending the rights of public servants in terms of political canvassing and exercising the rights of ordinary citizens. Then this minister referred it to the Ontario Law Reform Commission, which turned out a report that also said present restrictions were inappropriate. The Attorney General, on tabling the report, associated himself with this law reform commission report.

Why is he forcing public servants in this province to take this matter to the courts instead of giving them the rights he and his government promised them in 1985? Why can they not be treated like ordinary citizens in this province?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The answer to the question is that the honourable member is quite right. We referred the matter to the law reform commission and we got a report. On a number of occasions, I indicated to the representatives of the public service unions that the government was considering the matter and would make a judgement. The public service unions were not prepared to wait, for reasons I understand perfectly, and commenced a proceeding in the court.

As a result of that, the court gave a lengthy decision in which it analysed the law and made some important comments about the independence of a public service in the province and the extent to which a law that qualifies the public servants' rights to participate in certain parts of the political process should exist.

That was a new feature that shed another light on the question. We now have two things. We have the law reform commission report, on the one hand, and we have the decision of the Divisional Court of the Supreme Court of Ontario, which is being appealed, of course, by the union to the Court of Appeal in order to obtain the view of that court.

I do not want to impede the union in its appeal. It has already received one decision, and I think it not inappropriate to wait until that legal process which the union has commenced is completed.

1410

ELECTRICAL POWER

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The minister will be aware that the amendments to the Power Corporation Act which

he introduced last June would authorize Ontario Hydro to participate with price-setting preferences and economic development programs in respect of specific regions of the province. Northern Ontarians, quite frankly, were delighted with this apparent change in Liberal policy, if that in fact is what it was.

Now that the minister has apparently decided not to proceed, could he tell us, was it in fact a change of policy with regard to preference-setting price policies for northern Ontario? If so, what plans do the minister and Ontario have to proceed with lower hydro rates for northern Ontarians?

Hon. Mr. Wong: To clear the record as to the complicated multiquestion that the honourable member asked, let me clarify that the amendments to the Power Corporation Act will be introduced in due course and that one of the emphases of the amendments will be to ensure that Ontario Hydro plays a more important role as an economic development vehicle for the people of Ontario and for the government in terms of its meeting its policies.

Mr. Harris: Very clearly, the bill, which the minister appears now to have withdrawn, allowed Ontario Hydro to have preference-setting rates. That was the private member's bill brought forward by the former member for Sudbury, who cared about northern Ontario, and all members of this House supported that; it was carried unanimously.

Now his Premier (Mr. Peterson), in answer to questions, says no, he does not support that. He says, "Maybe we'll move some jobs, but not the preference-setting policy." That was in the bill that the minister has withdrawn.

My specific question to the minister is, when he redrafts this in a more organized way, instead of in the hasty fashion that he was ordered to do for Hershell Ezrin for the free trade stuff, when he thinks about it and brings the bill in in an organized way, will that bill authorize and permit Ontario Hydro to have preference-setting rates for economic development in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wong: The answer as to whether the Premier was right or wrong in his previous statement is that the Premier is always right.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Best answer I have heard this session, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Offer: I have a question of the Minister of Labour.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Once again, I will just have to wait. I know there are members wishing to ask questions, but it is difficult to hear.

Mr. Offer: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of the Minister of Labour. This question concerns his ministry's position around the issue of aluminum and its potential as a hazard in the workplace.

As the minister is aware, I have had a number of meetings with individuals in my riding on this issue, primarily individuals employed at McDonnell Douglas. They are concerned, first, that there are unacceptable levels of aluminum in the workplace; and second, that they are not compensable under the Workers' Compensation Board.

My question to the minister revolves around the position of his ministry on this issue of aluminum as a potential hazard in the workplace.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Mississauga North raises an important issue, and I want to point out that some of my officials were at those meetings as well. My understanding is that, as a result of those meetings, some of the concerns of the workers at McDonnell Douglas and some of their fears have been allayed. He really raises two points, and I would want to respond to both of them.

First of all, on the question of whether or not there are unacceptably high levels of aluminum in the workplace, all of our monitoring has indicated that at that facility the levels of aluminum dust in the workplace are well below the level set by regulation 654, which is the overall regulation establishing acceptable levels for a variety of hazardous substances in the workplace.

The second part of his question dealt with the question of whether or not exposure to aluminum dust represents a situation that would give rise to compensation under the worker compensation system. The fact is that all of the evidence thus far available in the world—in fact, review of the literature around the world—does not establish any relationship between impairment of health and exposure to aluminum dust, except in rare situations where there is a very high level of exposure and at the same time the worker has serious kidney problems. Notwithstanding that, when I say that the literature does not point out a risk, I should say as well that studies in that area are still going on.

Mr. Offer: By way of supplementary, officials from the ministry and from the Workers' Compensation Board and the Canadian Auto

Workers made a commitment to deal with this matter at a joint steering committee meeting in September. I am informed that at that meeting, though the issue was on the agenda, there was no discussion around the matter. My question by way of supplementary is, as this is a matter of great concern to a growing number of individuals, will the minister encourage the joint committee not only to place this issue once more on the agenda but also to start to deal with the issue at its next meeting, which I understand is being held in November?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member is referring to the Joint Steering Committee on Hazardous Substances in the Workplace. I should tell him and the members of this House that that committee is made up of representatives of both labour and management and they are charged with the responsibility for examining these very difficult questions. In this case, for example, they would be charged with the responsibility of analysing whether the exposure limits that are currently contained in the regulations are appropriate for the workplaces of Ontario.

My understanding is that this matter was on the agenda for September and that, because of the time taken up with other matters, the committee itself was not able to get to the question of aluminum dust. My understanding is that it is once again on the agenda for the November meeting, and I certainly will encourage the parties to direct their attention to that matter. It is a serious issue.

I should say that one of the other problems that troubles us in this matter is that exposure to aluminum, the way in which an individual can have aluminum enter the bloodstream, is not only by way of the workplace but also by way of so many other factors that it is difficult to attribute any one particular set of circumstances. To respond to the specific question, I expect that it will be taken up in November.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. I would like to take the Premier back to Davos, Switzerland, where he was in February 1988. He is quoted in the Toronto Sun of February 2, 1988.

The headline reads, "Premier Jinks Turner's Stance on Pact." In it the Premier is quoted as saying, and I want to quote very specifically the Premier's own words rather than any interpretation of those words; this is at the time when Mr. Turner was talking about tearing up the deal:

"I would go back and make a better deal.... We've taken a ride pretty close to the altar to turn around and walk away."

"Peterson's position differs markedly from that of Turner, who has said he would tear up the pact if he wins the next federal election."

I wonder if the Premier can tell us, is it still his position that he disagrees with John Turner and that he believes the first thing that should happen is an attempt to make a better deal, since we have come so close to the altar that we should not walk away?

1420

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First of all, let me say that I admire the honourable member's pluck for trying to salvage an unsalvageable situation for his party at the federal level. I do admire him. I understand his attempt to throw little distortions along the way. I admire the way he grasps for straws. It does speak something to his character, if not to his judgement.

That being said—

Mr. B. Rae: What are you going to say, my friend? You screwed up after September. What are you going to be advising your leader? Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very happy to answer my honourable friend's question. There is no question that I believe that this deal is not in the national interest.

Mr. B. Rae: That is not what we asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the member would allow me to answer, I would be delighted to answer my honourable friend. We also know that we have the largest trading relationship in the world with the United States. It will continue, regardless of the outcome of this particular discussion.

Mr. Brandt: Oh, will it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Yes, it will; there is no question about that. There will continue to be trade irritants. I have argued and the member has argued, I believe, that the trade irritants would not be resolved by this particular agreement, because the dispute settlement mechanism is found so wanting and we have not achieved any special protection from US trade remedy laws.

We will continue to share our continent and we will continue to be friends. That being said, I cannot see, depending on the outcome of this election, a deal of this nature being reconstructed. We will continue to go on to discuss trade disputes and softwood lumber, something that was not handled very elegantly the last time by the federal government, and a whole variety of other matters. We will try to find the areas that we have in common, but I do not see a deal

coming along in the shape of this free trade agreement.

Mr. B. Rae: Since the Premier is now saying something that is completely different from what he was telling reporters from the Toronto Sun—totally different—perhaps I should just ask the Premier this question: He is quoted as saying that the price of walking away from the pact now would be serious trade retaliation by the Americans. He is quoted as saying: “I would go back and make a better deal.... We’ve taken a ride pretty close to the altar to turn around and walk away.”

I would like to ask the Premier, did he say those words or did he not say those words when he was talking to reporters at a big business meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in February 1988? Did he or did he not?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: No, I did not, when I was speaking to the big—

Mr. B. Rae: So Goldstein is not telling the truth?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not saying I did not say those words to the reporter, but what I am saying—

Mr. B. Rae: What are you saying?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: You just asked me if I said it to a bunch of big businessmen. But let me say to my honourable friend, who is working so hard to salvage something that is unsalvageable for his own party—

Mr. B. Rae: Answer the question. We want to know where you stand.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend, if my honourable friend—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Your minister of trade says he favours free trade.

Mr. B. Rae: You haven’t answered the question.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend has taken an absolutely impossible position and tried to cast this government somehow as supporting the trade agreement.

Mr. B. Rae: Did you say it or didn’t you say it? Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: If the member would just be quiet for a moment, I would be very happy to answer. It is very hard with all of his barking to get a word in edgewise. I want to say to my honourable friend that the view of this government is extremely clear on this matter to any reasonable and objective person. I do not include my honourable friend in that category. I see him

now, as I see his leader, as a desperate man who sees his future fading in front of him. I understand that people and politicians in extremes do some very strange things.

But I say to him without fear of equivocation that this government has maintained its intellectual opposition to this agreement throughout. This government has proven to be right in every—

Mr. B. Rae: Yes or no? Did you say it to Lorrie or is Lorrie telling the truth or what? You’re a joke. You and Turner are going to go down to Washington together. You’re defending it. You have no credibility.

Did you say this or not? You’re not prepared to answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You’re as bad as Mulroney.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: You’re as bad as Ed Broadbent.

Mr. Brandt: Does this mean you’re officially divorced now, the two of you?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The accord is now over.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: We will just wait if they want to waste time.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You said we’d see after September 10. We’ll see if you say the same thing after November 21.

Mr. Brandt: It is the demise of matrimonial bliss. I hate to see these relationships deteriorate before my eyes.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: I choose my partners carefully.

Mr. South: Not carefully enough, though.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You might as well relax.

HOME CARE

Mr. J. M. Johnson: This question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. With escalating health care costs, especially in hospitals, and the urgent need for more nursing home care for seniors, would the minister not agree that it would be less costly for the government and more beneficial to the wellbeing of our senior citizens to assist them to remain in their own homes by providing adequate home care service?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I completely agree with the suggestion of the honourable member, and that is why I have the support of the Treasurer

(Mr. R. F. Nixon) to put \$40 million into an integrated homemaker program.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Then I am very pleased to ask this supplementary. The Victorian Order of Nurses in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph provide this very important homemaker service to our seniors, especially in rural areas. Because of this service, many of our elderly citizens who wish to do so have been able to continue to live in their own homes. The VON is now faced with a \$148,000 deficit by March 1989 because of the added costs of providing this service in rural, as opposed to urban, areas. Will the minister provide the necessary funding to assist the VON to continue to provide its excellent homemaker services for our seniors?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As the honourable member is aware, the various municipalities are the conduit for the funds that we pass through to the citizens and to the various agencies like VON, the Red Cross and some others. In each of these situations, the decision as to how to allocate those funds is their decision. I want to advise the honourable member that we have received correspondence from a number of these municipalities clearly indicating that while there was some difficulty with the introduction of the program, now that they have a better idea of how the funds are going to flow, they are in a better position to allocate them more appropriately.

The honourable member is undoubtedly correct that all areas could use more funds. I can assure him, as the honourable Treasurer well knows, that I will be going back to get more funds in the next budget.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Adams: My question is for the Minister of Housing. The minister knows I was delighted that the city of Peterborough and the province were able to sign an affordable housing agreement. She will be pleased to hear that the agreement has already stimulated a number of housing initiatives in the riding, including co-operative housing, housing for seniors, conversions to rent and so on. However, I am concerned about the application of the provision for 25 per cent affordable housing. If this is poorly administered, we could end up with ghettos of low-income housing. Can the minister suggest ways of avoiding this?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I share the member's pleasure at the deal that was signed by the province and the city of Peterborough. I think it offers an example to many municipalities across the province of the kind of work we can do

together when we sign a framework agreement like the one for Peterborough. The one we signed in Peterborough will make sure that something like 1,600 units of housing get built in the community or converted for the purposes of housing people who need help with their housing.

As to the member's question about the 25 per cent affordable guideline, which is part of our land use policy statement released in August, in that statement we have said that we expect municipalities to amend their official plans to take account of this guideline. Among the things we think they should consider is planning it in the sense of looking at their neighbourhoods and making sure that all new building in their neighbourhoods takes account of this guideline so that at least one quarter of the units built in a new neighbourhood are built to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people; low-income people probably through social housing, and moderate-income people through various more innovative ways of building.

I believe the city of Peterborough is committed to doing that and I think this can be done, as has been shown in various places across the province, with great success and with no difficulty at all of the sort the member suggests.

1430

Mr. Adams: I thank the minister for that. I too think Peterborough may well interpret the 25 per cent affordable guideline in a reasonable fashion. But in the event the municipality does not so interpret the guideline, would the minister consider making it a direction rather than a guideline?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: In the land use policy statement, we have said that we expect all municipalities, the ones in the target areas in particular, to amend their official plans to take account of this guideline. We expect that municipalities will indeed co-operate with us and find their own ways of making sure this goal is met.

Of course, if this does not happen, there are already considerable powers at the discretion of the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) to make sure those goals are indeed met. But so far, our experience in talking with municipalities has been very good. We believe they will indeed look at their official plans and make sure our goals of making housing available for low- and moderate-income people all over the province are met and are met in the spirit in which they were intended.

Mr. Speaker: New question. The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins). I do not think he has left for the day; perhaps I can stand it down until he comes back.

CROP INSURANCE

Mr. Wildman: I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Since the other ministers of agriculture have now agreed that it would be possible to increase crop insurance coverage to higher than the current 80 per cent, why is the minister not moving to increase the coverage, as proposed by the report of the Canada-Ontario Crop Insurance Review Committee, so that more Ontario farmers will enrol in the program and have protection?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It was this minister who, at the agriculture conference two years ago, made a presentation stating we believed that crop insurance coverage should go up to 90 per cent. We have supported that right from that time. It is a federal act. The federal government has to amend the Crop Insurance Act in order to allow provinces to pay coverage up to 90 per cent. I do not know what the delay is, I do not know why the federal government is not moving on this, but certainly I am putting on all the pressure I can to have that act amended. I would like to see it go to 90 per cent coverage.

Mr. Wildman: Since the minister wants to improve the coverage, will he do something recommended by the report of the committee which does not require an amendment to the federal act, and that is proceed now to pay 15 per cent of the premiums, cutting the share of the Ontario farmers' premiums to 35 per cent from the current 50 per cent, since this does not require the agreement of the other provinces or an amendment of the federal act?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That was another pitch I made at the ag ministers' conference when all my colleagues were present, but I did not get support from some of my colleagues in having the province pay a proportion of the farmer's premium.

Mr. Wildman: You don't need it.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Well, the fact of the matter is we do have a national agricultural strategy. Included in that strategy is tripartite stabilization, and one of the principles of tripartite stabilization is that all farmers across the country be treated on an equal basis; in other words, one province does not subsidize its farmers to a greater extent than another province. That is the reason we have not launched out on our own to pick up a portion of

the farmer's premium, because other provinces would feel it was in contradiction of the national agricultural strategy we all signed.

PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday the minister indicated that a private sector proposal for a massive landfill site near Acton would come under the full provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act. He knows, however, that Reclamation Systems Inc. has chosen a site without looking for alternatives. It has chosen a quarry on the Niagara Escarpment which happens to be owned by three cement companies that happen to own the majority shares of RSI.

My question to the minister is this: Will he advise RSI it would be virtually impossible to put a landfill site on the Niagara Escarpment without totally destroying the environment and without compromising the integrity of the Niagara Escarpment development plan? Will he nip this thing in the bud and take action now?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is interesting that one day I get a question from the Progressive Conservative Party that says, "Why don't you find landfill sites?" and "There are no landfill sites in Ontario;" and then, individually, I get questions from other members who say, "Don't put a landfill site" or "Stop this landfill site."

I can tell the member that this is a proposal which is going to go through the environmental assessment process. If it does not merit environmental approval, it will not get environmental approval.

The Environmental Assessment Board takes into consideration all factors if it proceeds to a board hearing, including what is already in existence in the regional municipality of Halton and what other proposals might be out there. It takes into consideration every aspect of it.

That is why I assured the member for Halton North (Mr. Elliot), who has communicated with me on this matter, and the mayor of the municipality and others who have expressed concerns about it, that in fact it would have the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act applied to it. I think it is very important that this be the case.

If every proposal that comes forward is, as the member says, nipped in the bud, then we would indeed face a situation that her leader says exists in Ontario. They cannot be constantly contradicting themselves on this.

Mrs. Marland: It is really interesting to hear this minister say that I cannot be continually

contradicting myself. I would suggest that by not requiring other sites be considered, he is contradicting himself. He requires the region of Peel to look at other sites and not just accept one for the EAA. How come he has a double standard?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask the member for Mississauga South, is that your question?

Mrs. Marland: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Just put it.

Mrs. Marland: It is obvious that the minister does not want to be a proactive player and protect the environment.

My question is on the Intervenor Funding Project Act, and it has only received first reading in this House—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It has taken about 90 seconds and we still have not been able to get a question; or hear.

Mrs. Marland: My question deals with the Intervenor Funding Project Act, which has only received first reading in this House and the government has not indicated that it will pass it soon.

Will the minister expedite the request for intervenor funding by the citizens' groups involved so that they may hire technical and legal consultants immediately to deal with this proposal by RSI?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There were a couple of questions there. I will take it the member's last question was the one to which she was really looking for an answer.

I think it is important, when we go through the process, that proposals are brought forward and that they are analysed very carefully. If I, for instance, were to make decisions based on the fact that politically I do not want one proposal to come forward—and listen, I can tell you there are lots of them out there, proposals that are put forward for environmental assessment that politically sometimes I would like to say, “Gee, hold up on those.” But if we are really to have an appropriate process in Ontario, it has to go through the environmental assessment process instead of the political process, and if it does not pass that test environmentally, then it should not be approved.

1440

In answer to the second question, I say, as I have in I think all of these instances where people have made a proposal to me for the purposes of

receiving intervenor funding, that in fact my ministry has provided intervenor funding when we have had that request made, and we would be happy to go through the appropriate procedure that we have for providing intervenor funding. Even though the bill has not been processed by the House, I have, on an ad hoc basis and I think on a consistent basis in relation to environmental projects, said that there will be intervenor funding provided, and I am more than pleased to do that again on request of the people who are in that area.

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR TOXICOLOGY

Mr. Ferraro: I have one question for the Minister of the Environment. There is no supplementary. The minister will know that as of today there is no place, as I understand it, in Canada where toxic analysis can be done to the extent that we require. For this reason, I think since the beginning of 1983, the previous government under Premier Davis devised a plan for a toxicology centre in Guelph that would be funded equally by the federal government, the provincial government and private enterprise.

The minister will know that when we came into power in 1985, we approved our portion of the cost of the toxicology centre. In 1984, when the Mulroney government came into power, it cancelled its commitment. Yesterday, Mr. Turner was in Guelph and reaffirmed his commitment that he made in 1984.

The people of Guelph would like to know, irrespective of who forms the government after the next election, where is the commitment of the provincial government? Has it diminished or is it still in place?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I can assure the member for Guelph that one of the high priorities this government has had over the years has been its financial participation, and active participation otherwise, in what we refer to as the Canadian Centre for Toxicology.

Because it requires a three-part component, as the member appropriately points out, first of all it was contingent initially on the fact that there would be federal participation, that there would be provincial participation, and that the private sector in the form of many of the companies which ultimately, in my view, benefit—and the environment benefits from this—would be involved in this project. For this reason, yes, we have a very strong provincial commitment to participate in this project and that stands.

PETITIONS

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am pleased to table the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliaments of Canada and Ontario as follows:

"We, the parents and taxpayers in the community of Palmerston, Ontario, and the surrounding area, would like to see the Lord's Prayer reinstated as part of our education system."

Six hundred and forty-seven concerned citizens have signed this petition.

I have another petition on the same issue which further states:

"We, the parents and taxpayers in the community of Clifford, Ontario, and the surrounding area, would like to see the Lord's Prayer and scripture readings reinstated as part of our education system."

This petition contains 117 signatures, and I strongly endorse both petitions.

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Mr. Dietsch: I have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the crown in the province of Ontario continues a lengthy, futile and expensive prosecution against the Church of Scientology; and

"Whereas at no time in recorded history has an entire church been charged with a criminal offence for the actions of individuals, and freedom of religion in the province is at risk; and

"Whereas the alleged offences occurred over a decade ago, and those responsible have been expelled from the church or rehabilitated;

"We petition the Attorney General and the government of Ontario to withdraw the charges against the church and end this prosecution."

I have several of the same and they are signed, and I will duly sign as well.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to take the opportunity to inform the House that, as we debate the nonconfidence motion, there is agreement among the various parties that the time will be shared, with wrapup speeches of roughly 20 minutes per side beginning at approximately 4:45 this afternoon.

Mr. Harris: We concur, as long as we are clear that there are two time-sharings. One is the last hour—20, 20, 20—and then all the rest of the time is split in three and shared as well.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement of the members that this be done?

Agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: I seek consent to move the motion in the absence of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae).

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement that the member for Hamilton East place the motion in the place of the member for York South?

Agreed to.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Mackenzie, on behalf of Mr. B. Rae, moved motion 3 under standing order 70(a):

That the government lacks the confidence of this House because of its abject failure to deliver on its six-point promise during the 1987 election campaign that if certain conditions were not met on the Canada-US free trade negotiations there would be no deal, even though none of those conditions were met; and because the three so-called anti-free-trade bills now before this House—Bills 147, 168, 175—add nothing to the ability of the government of Ontario to resist, oppose or differ from the provisions of the Mulroney trade deal, in the interest of the ordinary working people of the province.

Mr. Speaker: I remind all members that according to standing order 70, the vote will be called at 5:50 p.m.

Mr. Mackenzie: My leader will be making the windup presentation for our party at the end of the debate.

I want to start it off by saying to all honourable members in this House and to all the citizens of this province who may watch our deliberations that what we are dealing with here, as far as I am concerned, is the most important issue that has hit this country in an awful lot of years. We are dealing literally, as far as I am concerned, with the sellout of Canada. We are dealing with an act and an action by the federal government that I think border on treason in this country.

We are dealing with a deal that ties us to a continental energy policy. We are dealing with a deal that does threaten social programs in Ontario, not directly in terms of their mention in the agreement but clearly in its allowance of for-profit business interests to move into things like hospitals, nursing homes and a variety of health care services in the province. It deals

specifically, although it is not mentioned in the agreement itself, in terms of the threat to our social services because of subsidies and what are going to be subsidies.

I think it is important that we understand a few of these points right at the beginning of this debate.

Subsidies: As many people have mentioned from time to time, the argument that raged around the frozen fish issue from Newfoundland and the Canadian maritime provinces was the charge by the New England governors and the Americans that the Canadian fishermen had an unfair advantage because they did not work in the North Atlantic during the two worst months of the year and were able to collect unemployment insurance at home. That was the argument that was made.

While that was not what carried the day in terms of the tariff that was slapped against us on foreign fish, it is certainly an indication that the fact we have universal social programs in this province, social programs that are cheaper than the private kinds of medicare in the United States, makes it a very definite concern and is certainly an indication this is one of the things that will be on the table. Anybody who has done any negotiating knows very well that even if we are able to protect something as important as the medicare program in this country of ours, we are going to have to give up something else in return.

1450

Perhaps I can stop and talk in straight trade union terms, which is my background, for just a moment. Even more important is that any trade union negotiator who negotiated a contract and then went to his members and said, "We've got an agreement here. It's a good one. We want you to sign it but we cannot tell you what the pay rates or the job classifications are going to be for five to seven years, till we sort out these minor details," would be booed right out of the hall.

It makes absolutely no sense that we are entering into an agreement that could affect our social programs, because we do not know what are going to be subsidies and we will not know for five to seven years. We also have not achieved any relief from countervail, which simply means that this great plum held out, access to the American market, is not secured because the US can still bring a countervail action if it thinks imports from Canada are either hurting a particular company or that there is an unfair subsidy, which, as I said before, we will not know for some period of time. This means we do not have relief from countervail action.

I think it is a real threat to our sovereignty. What the Tory government has done federally is despicable, but I am equally concerned with what Ontario is doing. I think this deal is a real, serious threat to the jobs of literally thousands of Canadian workers. I am reminded of a vice-president of CP Trucks who said before our committee that he knew of as many as 500 branch plants that really could see no rationale for staying open in Ontario if we had a totally open border through this trade deal.

Why then is this motion I read out in the House directed to this Liberal government in Ontario? To some extent, it is because of the argument I have heard many Liberals make, that a Liberal is a Liberal is a Liberal. I have a real problem here. Quite frankly, I cannot trust them. They have not to date lived up to the promises they have made to the people of Ontario. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) very clearly said before the election that if there were not a proper dispute settlement mechanism, which we have not achieved in the deal, there would be no deal. He said very clearly that if there were no provisions for regional development, there would be no deal. He said if it could hurt the farmers or marketing boards, there would be no deal.

I have the specific quotes. I do not have the time in this speech to bring them to members, but the quotes are there. Members all know them. They have been repeated in this House before. If our cultural identity were at risk, there would be no deal. If the auto pact were touched in any way, and it very definitely is, there would be no deal. All of these points, along with arguments about the grape growers and about the fact Ontario had a veto, were made by the Premier of this province; that without them in the final deal when we saw it there would be no deal. I think I will use a couple of the quotes we have had from the Premier since.

When we saw the deal, when we got the final arrangements, when the Americans signed it, all of a sudden none of these strong statements by the Premier meant anything. On October 7, 1987, the *Toronto Star* said: "Peterson condemned the trade deal saying, 'The deal is not in the national interest or in Ontario's interest. We're giving up a great deal in terms of our capacity to make our own decisions as a nation.'" But then he said, in the *Financial Post*, on January 25, 1988, "There's not a hell of a lot I can do to stop it." It goes on with some other comments that are beautiful as well, but I think it tells members very clearly that all of a sudden the opposition seems to have evaporated.

Every member in this House should remember this, because we will get back to them if the wrong things happen in this coming election. I still trust in the good sense of the Canadian people that they will not. The Premier has set the stage very clearly for John Turner and the federal Liberals to back off. After all, the Premier backed off almost totally after the last provincial election and did not live up to his promise to take action.

Let me also deal with what happened in our committee; I think it is equally important.

Just for a moment before I do that: Why am I concerned about the backoff and the lack of spine in terms of this government being the one thrust in Ontario that might keep Turner on track? It is not just the fact that the Premier has given Mr. Turner all he needs as an excuse to back off. The Liberal Party president is in favour of the Mulroney deal. The Liberal senator in charge of trade is in favour of the Mulroney deal. The Liberal Premier of New Brunswick, McKenna, is in favour of the Conservative deal. The Liberal Premier of Quebec, Mr. Bourassa, is in favour of the deal. The Liberal leader in Alberta, Mr. Decore, is in favour of the deal. The Liberal leader in British Columbia is in favour of the deal. The former Liberal Minister of Finance is in favour of the deal. The former Liberal Minister of Trade is in favour of the deal. I know some of the members in this House who are in favour of the deal.

When business wants the deal and when half of his own party wants the deal, how is Mr. Turner going to be able to live up to the commitments he is supposedly making to the Canadian people?

In the committee, the committee that has been meeting for the last two years in this House and has gone down to Washington a number of times and over to Europe, we asked them if they were ready to tear up the deal, as Mr. Turner had said. We got a very categorical no from the Liberal members of that committee. Were they willing to launch a court challenge? We got an equally strong no from the Liberal members of that committee. Would they lower interest rates as a way of promoting incentives for Canadian development and investment and industry? That was voted down as one of the recommendations we tried to make in that committee.

We got a number of weak recommendations, and I wish I had time to go into them. Most of the recommendations from the Liberal members in that committee asked the federal government to renegotiate the deal. We got some of those within weeks after we had Mr. Yeutter making it very

clear that this one-track arrangement from the United States was not up for renegotiation, that it was passed on the basis that we bought the whole deal or there was no deal at all, yet the Liberal recommendations from our committee were saying, "The federal government should take another look at this section of the deal." It obviously meant absolutely nothing.

Just how weak were some of the recommendations they made? Let me deal with only one. The first recommendation they made to us was in the energy field, and water. Let me read it:

"The committee has concluded that the provisions of the agreement fail to assure Canada's sovereign control over its water resources. Unless amendments are made directly to the agreement, its provisions may override both federal and provincial water policies, laws and regulation in the event of a conflict between Canada and the United States."

All that is is a conclusion.

We argued a bit and said it was not anywhere near tough enough, so we got a second version that we think came out of Mr. Ezrin's office. I will not read the first four paragraphs, but I will read the last one.

Once again, it called on the government of Canada, not Ontario. It said, "The government of Canada should continue to exercise its authority in the energy field by preserving the option to apply differential pricing for natural resources used by Ontario industry."

Well, la-di-da, "should exercise its authority...by preserving the option." No recommendation; no hard request whatsoever.

One of the very few amendments we succeeded in getting through that committee—I think we got it through, I will tell members very frankly, because the northern members of the committee, including the Liberals, realized they really had something here that was no recommendation at all—was an NDP amendment that simply said,

"The government of Ontario implement a program to reduce energy prices in economically disadvantaged areas such as northern Ontario to encourage economic development in those regions of our province, while at the same time presenting a direct challenge to the dangerous energy provisions of the free trade agreement."

That may still not be as strong as I would like. It simply says that Ontario should take action to reduce energy prices to assist northern Ontario.

Then what do we see? The government brings in three bills, whether on water or whether on energy, that really discuss the arrangements as to how we might price these resources. They do not

even have contained in the three bills that we have before this House the rather stronger recommendation that was made in committee.

What I am saying here very, very clearly, and I wish I had time to go into all of the details, is that there is nothing in the recommendations made in our committee, and nothing in what we have seen in statements from this Premier, that would give anybody in Ontario who thought about it seriously for a moment any confidence whatsoever in this government standing up to the issue of a free trade arrangement, should the Tories be able to put it through in this country. We have not taken the initiative in saying: "There are areas that are Ontario's jurisdiction. We are going to take specific actions in those areas." Indeed, when we tried to make those recommendations in committee, with the exception of the one I have read to you, they were voted down by the Liberal members in this House.

I have no confidence whatsoever that this government has either done or will do what is necessary to stop the sellout of our country. That is why I have no confidence whatsoever in the government of Ontario.

1500

Mr. McCague: I did not intend to speak now, but my colleague did not show up so I guess I must. I understand the motion that has been put by the New Democratic Party in this matter. First, they say that the six points put forward by the Premier some months ago have not been followed through. That is true. They say that the three bills the government has introduced in a feeble effort to downgrade the free trade arrangement are no good. I agree with that. They also mention that they are in favour of the working man. Who is not? That, I guess, is what we are doing right here today.

I will remind the NDP and the government that the four recommendations that came from the Progressive Conservatives were as follows:

"1. The government of Ontario support and endorse the...free trade agreement.

"2. The government of Ontario abandon its pointless efforts to provoke a constitutional confrontation with the federal government over the free trade agreement.

"3. The government of Ontario, in consultation with business, labour and the federal government, assist workers displaced by competitive pressures.

"4. The government of Ontario either withdraw Bill 175, Water Transfer Control Act, or substantially amend it to clearly prohibit the large-scale transfer or sale of Ontario water."

Seldom have we seen such, I would think it is fair to say, incompetence as has been exemplified by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) on this very Bill 175. It was introduced with great fanfare. The leader of the New Democratic Party, in fairness to him, raised the issue of the bill about a week ago. The minister waffled on it and even said that he was not sure where he was going to go with it. He had had some second thoughts. Maybe the federal bill was better or maybe his was better, but if the leader of the NDP had some amendments that he wanted to introduce, that was fine; he would will look at those.

I really think that what he is looking for is an excuse to dump the bill altogether, as we saw today from the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) who wants to dump his bill. I do not know where the Premier and his government are coming from on this issue. They are getting a lot of pressure to change their minds.

The member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro) persuaded us, with my endorsement I must say, to travel to Europe just a couple of months ago. I know the member wanted to get his gun loaded to come back and shoot holes in the free trade agreement. We had all kinds of Liberal members there and a couple of good Progressive Conservative members, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and I. We had the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), a very attentive listener at all times, and the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) there trying to find some little reason we should be opposed to the free trade agreement.

We went to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, to the European Community in Brussels and to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva. Do the members know what happened? They looked and they searched and they scratched and they could not find one person who would tell them something that was helpful to their cause in opposition to the free trade agreement.

I thought we were going to learn something. I sort of thought I knew before I went. I sympathized with them because they did not find one thing over there to help their cause. That may be a waste of taxpayers' money. I really enjoyed myself.

Mr. Pelissero: You weren't at the same meetings we were at.

Mr. McCague: Yes, the member for Lincoln (Mr. Pelissero) was there too.

Mr. Pelissero: You weren't at the same meetings I was at.

Mr. McCague: Oh yes, I was. I was at every meeting the honourable member from Lincoln was at, not more but every one. We were both at all of them.

However, what bothers me about this whole debate is that—I think I understand what went on. I understand that there was a negotiating team from Canada and a negotiating team from the USA. While we want to be critical of the way they negotiated, you cannot really criticize unless you were sitting at that negotiating table. I believe we got a fair deal, given that it was a negotiation.

The second point I want to make is that really what we have here is a skeleton of an agreement. The meat still has to be put on the bones and that is a five- to seven-year process. While a leap of faith is mentioned many times, I still feel we owe it to Canadians to approve of this deal and let whatever government happens to be in Ottawa proceed with getting the meat on the bones and figure out the whole deal.

I understand the difficulty Mr. Mulroney has in defending the deal. I understand the ease with which Ontario's government of the day and the opposition party can criticize the deal. That is easy. The member for Hamilton East will tell us that there is no protection whatsoever in this deal for workers. We all saw in the newspaper article last weekend what was happening with Sklar-Pepler.

If a person were perfectly honest about this, and I propose to be, on a monthly or yearly basis there are quite a few companies that are having to close down in Canada, for whatever reason. Every time a closing has come up over the past two years, it has been blamed on free trade. That is absolutely unfair. Some of it may be caused by that, but not all, because in the two years previous to that we had closings.

As far as workers are concerned, sure, we all have sympathy for workers. I have had the unfortunate circumstance in my riding of having Collingwood Shipyards close. Quite a few of the people who worked there had been there for 30 years. They were 50 to 55 years old. It was the only job they had ever done and they need retraining. They are reluctant to be retrained. I understand the kinds of problems the NDP champions. But it is unfair to blame it all on free trade.

I am personally concerned about the fact that protectionism may well follow the abolition, if you want to put it that way, of a free trade deal. I

do not like the idea of protectionism. As we all know, there are some 600 bills before the US Congress right at this time that people may want to initiate. Who knows, they may not, but they may want to.

Mr. Haggerty: Karl is having trouble hearing you, George.

Mr. McCague: My honourable colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie has a little trouble. If they do not like it in Sweden, he does not like it here. However, that is an aside.

I think we owe Canadians the opportunity to try the free trade deal. As we all know, about 90 per cent of our trade in Ontario is with the US, and I do not see our hampering that. We have had, in a way—and the NDP will be happy to have me say this—a free trade deal with the US for about 40 years now. Not many tariffs; no barriers. Yet our sovereignty and culture have not been threatened, as the opposition to the deal would have us believe was the case.

1510

I was interested some few months ago on another subject, the auto pact, to hear an interview on the radio with Bob White. Somebody there—I presume he was either a Liberal or a PC, but likely a PC—

Mr. Morin-Strom: Likely a Liberal.

Mr. McCague: It might have been a Liberal, I am not sure; but he was trying to tell him that in the initial stages his party was opposed to the auto pact. He very cleverly ducked that by saying no, that was the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The moderator tried to say, "But that was the predecessor of your party." "Well, maybe, but I have no responsibility for the CCF at all. It was them." Now we have the great defender of the auto pact, Bob White.

As I understand it, the auto pact can be cancelled with one year's notice. When I go through my riding and somebody in labour or whatever it be, most often a card-carrying Liberal, says to me, "This free trade deal is the end of the world for Canada," I say, "Did you realize that it can be cancelled in six months?" They say: "Oh, my God, is that right? Well, we sure should try it."

I say to the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston), if they have faith enough to try it, why does the government and the Liberal Party of Ontario not have that faith?

Mr. Mahoney: I tried to understand on reading this motion why it was actually here today. I could really come to only one conclusion, and that is that clearly, as I think was

illustrated earlier in question period, this is simply an attempt by the New Democratic Party to prop up the faltering federal party in the upcoming federal election.

I think if they were to read the information that is available in the *Toronto Star* in the latest Gallup poll, it shows that 50 per cent of Canadians indeed are opposed to the FTA, and in fact in Ontario that figure is substantially higher at 60 per cent.

What we have been saying all along is that the Canadian people in fact should have the right to make the decision. Clearly, they have been given that right and they are responding, if one is to believe the latest Gallup poll, and I am sure Gallup is a very credible organization that we can take some confidence in. If we are to accept those figures, the Canadian people on November 21 are not only going to reject the free trade agreement, but they are also going to reject the present government.

In the motion, the Leader of the Opposition refers to basically two areas. He refers to the six points the Premier outlined last August and he refers to the three bills in saying that they do not do anything to assist the government in opposing the FTA.

I would like to address the six points just for a moment. The Premier has said that this government would not support a deal unless there was an acceptable dispute settlement mechanism; unless Canada can continue to reduce regional disparities and promote regional development throughout the country, and most notably throughout the province; unless it includes safeguards for the agricultural sector, and clearly it does not; if it threatens our cultural identity—well, that is perhaps the one item in the six points that is more subjective than the others.

Our opinion, certainly my strong feeling, is that it will threaten our cultural identity. We are Canadians, and while we are proud to be friends with the United States and proud to share the longest undefended border in the history of the world and proud to do business with them and to enjoy their country and have them enjoy our country, we are Canadians and we do not wish to be American citizens.

The next point was that our ability should not be taken away to screen foreign investment in the best interests of Canadians; and the final point dealt with the auto pact. We would not support it if it placed the auto pact in jeopardy.

I am going to outline in the short time I have how each of those points has not been addressed in this FTA, but before I do that, I would like to

address the bills that the Leader of the Opposition has impugned in his motion.

Bill 168 is An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act. I will just read from the explanatory notes. It says, "The Corporation is allowed to supply power to customers outside Canada only if that supply is surplus to the reasonably foreseeable power requirements of Ontario customers and other customers in Canada. The price for supplying power to customers outside Canada is required to be enough to recover the appropriate share of costs and more than the price charged to customers in Canada for equivalent service."

I suggest that is absolutely contrary to the free trade agreement and flies in the face of that agreement, and is an act that says this government is not willing to accept the conditions laid out in the FTA.

Bill 175, which I have here, is An Act respecting the transfers of Water. There has been some discussion about that in this House and, frankly, misreading of the document.

I will again read from the explanatory notes, where it says, "Approval will be refused or revoked if the minister is of the opinion that the transfer is or may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply for Ontario or Canada or any part thereof." I do not know how we can be more explicit, how we can be more direct or how we can be more straightforward than that.

The final bill, Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities, again, clearly says in the explanatory notes, and I will paraphrase, that it allows us to maintain in the face of the free trade agreement our ability to manage our own health care system and to not allow American corporations or private investors to take over our health care sector.

Clearly, this government has been consistent with the six points the Premier outlined last August. I suggest that the opposition, frankly, in somewhat of an irresponsible way, is trying to say that the issue here is whether we should trade or not trade. I suggest that is indeed not the issue. That we must enter into some form of a trade deal with the United States is a position that has been said many times and put forward many times by this government. We feel, however, that it should be a multinational trade deal, with the United States as well as with countries from the Pacific Rim and other parts of the world.

The key words in our position are that we must negotiate on a sector-by-sector basis. If we examine this deal on a sector-by-sector basis, we will see that the first item referred to in the

Premier's six points, and the one the Mulroney government has said is the key, is secure access to the United States market for Canadian exporters.

Let me share with the House a couple of quotes. First of all, "Our highest priority is to have an agreement that ends the threat to Canadian industry from US protectionists who harass and restrict our exports through the misuse of trade remedy laws."

An hon. member: Who said that?

Mr. Mahoney: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said that in March 1987.

Another quote: The free trade "deal is not going to shield Canada from the very effective countervail laws in the present legislation that the United States already has."

An hon. member: Who said that?

Mr. Mahoney: I will tell the member who said that. Pat Carney said that in September 1987.

So, what do we have? We have a dispute settlement mechanism as the key element in obtaining secure access to the US market by setting up a binational tribunal empowered, if trade actions are brought against Canada, to deal with them consistent with US domestic laws and regulations. It must apply to existing US laws.

I ask one simple question. Is it fair and equitable in the game when the referee who sets down the rules makes his decisions by the rules that are laid down by the other team? These rules would not have prevented the 15 per cent surcharge on Canadian softwood lumber. The shakes and shingles tariff would not have been affected under this agreement. So, point 1: clearly, there is no secure access to the United States market.

The specific agreement that we refer to fails to protect government programs that are designed to promote regional and sectoral development in this country.

One of the realities in this country is that, because of our size, it is necessary for us to use the old Canadian Football League adage of gate equalization to attempt to help people in other parts of our country who are not as economically lucky, actually, as we are here in Ontario, I say to the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black). I even have my own people trying to trip me up, but that is okay.

Interjection.

Mr. Mahoney: It is nice to see the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) here. He missed his opportunity but I am sure he will get up again.

1520

What it boils down to is that if we decide in our own wisdom that we wish to help a certain part of the province, we are actually being put in the position where a foreigner can come in and challenge our right to do that, and the decision on whether or not that challenge will be upheld will be made by a tribunal adjudicating American trade laws. To be fair, the agreement allows us the opportunity to continue negotiations over the next five to seven years, but I maintain that we have already given up the farm in this agreement and our negotiations will be very difficult.

Speaking of the farm, members should picture themselves as farmers in Canada. We have eight months of winter and four months of bad skating. It is a lot more difficult to milk a cow at six o'clock in the morning in Portage la Prairie or in Iron Bridge than it is down in Florida or South Carolina. All our dairy products are in great jeopardy. The tankers that we will see flowing across the border will be carrying milk into our markets to virtually destroy the Canadian farmer. What is really happening is that we will lose the opportunity and the ability to subsidize our farm industries and in fact to subsidize a way of life.

The United States omnibus bill that was recently passed, which I would like to talk about, does not deal specifically with Canada but rather with the very real problems of dumping by foreign countries into the United States of millions of dollars worth of relatively cheap products. Clearly, this is a practice that neither Canada nor the United States should tolerate, but the problem is that while the US is smiling and patting us on the back, assuring us that we will have improved and secure access to its market, in return, it is taking away our ability to deal with our own economic sectors.

In closing, because the whip is telling me my 10 minutes have arrived, I will just say that this is not a good deal. The Premier has been consistent in saying that. We need to negotiate a deal that would allow us to remain independent but co-operative, sovereign but friendly, and finally, the true north strong and free.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am very pleased to be able to speak to this resolution, and I will read again the summary of the resolution itself: "That this government lacks the confidence of this House because of its abject failure to deliver on its six-point promise during the 1987 election campaign that if certain conditions were not met on the Canada-US free trade negotiations there would be no deal."

That was the commitment the Premier made to the people of this province last summer. It was a key issue in the provincial campaign and it is one on which this government has been a total failure in terms of carrying out the mandate that it received. This government has not been willing to take on the free trade negotiations. Time and time again, it has had the opportunity to stand up for the people of this province and it has refused to do so.

We have been accomplices, as a Liberal government in Ontario, to the formation of an agreement that is an utter disaster to this country. I can go through the committee reports. I was sitting on the committee along with my colleague, our critic for the Ministry of Labour, the member for Hamilton East. We sat on the committee with members of the Liberal and Conservative parties. We issued two major reports during the last government, both of which were endorsements by the majority of the committee, the Liberals and the Conservatives together, on the whole process of working towards a free trade agreement with the United States. All the way along the line, the Liberals in this House have been accomplices in the accomplishment of a deal that the people of Canada recognize is an utter disaster for the future of our country.

This is a deal that was intended to assure us secure access to markets in the United States. In fact, it does no such thing. Our industries are still threatened and face the same types of US law affecting them in terms of antidumping and countervailing duty. We have an attack on the steel industry going on now, even after the agreement has been signed. We still have the 15 per cent lumber duty, which was in fact enshrined in the agreement. We have accomplished nothing.

It could have been solved a long time ago if this government had taken steps early on in opposing the negotiations from the outset, in not being a participant with the federal government in terms of the agenda of the negotiations, and in not standing up for the people of this province in terms of the concerns and the threat this agreement would pose to Canadian interests.

This is an issue of trust. The people of this province certainly cannot trust a government that campaigned last summer on six aspects of this agreement. The Premier assured us there would be no deal if there was not a proper dispute settlement mechanism in the agreement. He said there would be no deal if our regional development programs were not protected. He said there

would be no deal if this posed a threat to Canadian agriculture, and in particular, our marketing boards. The Premier made a commitment to our cultural identity, that if this agreement threatened our cultural industries, there would be no deal. Finally, and most effectively, he talked about the auto industry, the key industry in terms of the industrial heartland of Ontario. If the auto pact was gutted, there would be no deal.

What has happened since that point? We get statements from the Premier after the election that are quite different than what we heard from the Premier before the election. I will read a statement from the Premier on October 7, 1987, in the *Toronto Star*, about a month after the election, "It's not a question of blocking this arrangement," Peterson said. "He went on to say, 'I would never work to undermine my colleagues or the Prime Minister.'" Later on the Premier is quoted as saying that in the *Globe and Mail*. But he also said the *de facto* veto, which he believed Ontario had in the deal by blocking parts under its jurisdiction, had evaporated.

So the province takes one position before the election, and when the Liberals have been given a mandate, they immediately abandon ship, leave us at the whim of the Prime Minister of this country, and we end up with a result such as the one we have facing the Canadian federal electorate today.

It is an issue that has to be of concern, because if there is ever an issue that faces the people of our province and the people of Canada, it is an issue of trust. Who can you trust in terms of representing your interests?

This government in the province of Ontario, this Liberal Premier, has not fulfilled commitments to the people of this province. We know the Prime Minister never lived up to his commitments to the people in the last campaign and the Prime Minister is going to pay dearly for it in the current election. Surely, we are not going to have a public that is going to continue to trust the Liberal Party on issues of such critical importance as this one.

We have a government that has now presented us here in the Legislature with three bills which it claims are going to protect our interests and provide a challenge to the free trade agreement, bills in the areas of health, energy and water. In fact, these three bills are an utter disaster.

The health bill does nothing in terms of protecting our interests in the province of Ontario to maintain our medicare and health system under the total control of the government and out

of the hands of the corporate American health sector.

The water bill was a complete sellout. The water bill talked about giving the Minister of Natural Resources the right to sell our water, to set prices and determine arrangements for how the payment for our water was to be specified by the minister. We now have the minister, in his embarrassment, having to say that he will accept any amendment we could possibly dream up in either of the two opposition parties in order to change the bill to, in fact, prevent the wholesale sale of our fresh water in Ontario.

1530

Finally today, we have the government's weak-kneed energy bill. We have the Minister of Energy standing up today and admitting that the bill does not accomplish anything and, in fact, what it is going to do is to stand down the bill. The government has decided not to proceed with a challenge on the energy arrangements of the free trade agreement. He was quite clear that Ontario Hydro has control of the Minister of Energy and does not want this government to proceed and interfere with the energy rules under which Ontario Hydro wants to manage the affairs of this province.

I think it is time for the people of this province to recognize, and for this government to recognize, that it has not lived up to the mandate it was given last summer. We now have a free trade agreement that has been negotiated by our federal government in conjunction with provincial governments. This one particularly, being the most powerful province, the largest and wealthiest province in the country, has gone along, acquiesced in the negotiation of this agreement all the way through, and we now have such an agreement negotiated.

The confidence of the people of this province certainly cannot be in this government when it comes to free trade. The full and utter lack of commitment to this issue has been apparent to those of us who have been dealing with this issue on a day-to-day basis in this House, in the committees of this House, in dealings with the principal ministries involved and in listening to the daily answers of the Premier of the province on this issue.

I and my colleagues feel that it is vitally important that we have this debate today, that we have the opportunity for the government to recognize that it did not live up to its commitment, that action has to be taken. What we are asking for is support for this vote of nonconfidence in the government so that this government

can be taken back to the people of the province to reassess its position on this free trade agreement.

Mr. Sterling: During this debate on free trade in our country over the last year and a half, I have heard so many people say, "I wish I could be better informed about this particular issue." I only want to say in response to that particular comment that the fact of the matter is that there are reams and reams of material that have been written on this particular subject by very learned people. There have been reams and reams of good material about different aspects of this deal, which have been presented, I think, in a fairly easy manner to understand. I only wish that more Canadians would sit down and read some of the articles, that they would read the editorials, both for and against this particular trade deal, and then draw their conclusions.

I want to talk about three things today. I want to talk about this not in an emotional sense, which this issue seems to have become, but to try to analyse this deal and, of course, support my position on it, which is in favour of the free trade deal, by looking at the actual document itself, the free trade agreement, and follow through some logic which has been presented to us in the rhetoric of the federal election campaign.

The first allegation I want to deal with is that the free trade agreement would lead to an incomplete or a less distinct Canada because of harmonization between Canada and the United States. The second area that I want to deal with is whether the free trade agreement affects our ability to maintain and create social programs in our country. The third and last, if I get an opportunity in terms of time, is that I would like to deal with media coverage on the free trade issue. Maybe members could draw from the fact that, from the media coverage on this, it is little wonder that the public is getting one side of the story.

Mr. Laughren: Leave the Toronto Star out of this.

Mr. Sterling: This does not even include the Toronto Star. Unfortunately, if the Toronto Star were included, I do not think I have seen one favourable comment with regard to free trade.

The charge is made that the deal will lead to more or less complete policy harmonization between Canada and the United States. I am going to quote extensively from what I thought was a very good article in Policy Options magazine. It was written by William Watson, who teaches economics at McGill University and has a doctorate from Yale. The subjects of his writings include industrial policy, etc.

The best counterexample, of course, to that whole idea that a free trade agreement will lead to policy harmonization is the auto pact which we have now in place and which benefits to the greatest extent the province of Ontario. "The auto pact was the greatest single liberalization of two countries' bilateral trade and was negotiated by the same government that brought us both the Canada pension plan and medicare, the twin pillars of our welfare state, and that was barely six years after it," the pact, "was concluded."

I might add that at the time the auto pact was being negotiated and talked about, unions and the New Democratic Party were against that particular policy initiative. They switched horses only after it had gone through. In fact, after it had gone through, I listened to Tommy Douglas in the city of Oshawa make a speech about how disastrous the auto pact was going to be to our country.

Canada-US trade liberalization and Canadian distinctiveness in social policy are not incompatible. Indeed, a literal reading of the data might suggest they are complementary.

There are other examples as well. The European Community, as we know, is not just a free trade area, it is a common market. That means not only that can goods pass from country to country but that it is also relatively free in terms of the internal movement of capital and labour; yet the member nations seem quite capable of maintaining dramatic differences in taxation, in public spending and in social regulation. In Europe, not only do we have the example of dropping tariff barriers completely but they also allow employees to go across the border, yet they maintain their distinctiveness. Therefore, we would argue that the free trade agreement will not affect our social policy in the future.

The argument is made with regard to taxation that if they drop taxes in a certain area, we will have to drop taxes in a certain area. In the area of corporate taxation, that has been the case in Canada for the past 25 years. If the United States drops corporate taxation, we have no alternative in Canada but to follow suit. Fortunately, in the last few years the United States has kept its corporation taxes up and has in fact increased them.

The same thing holds from province to province. If one province taxes the people too greatly, the people will move from that province to another province. Corporations will move from one province to the other, partially on the basis of a decision as to the levels of taxation.

The second area that I wanted to talk about and that I think is probably the greatest fallacy, the greatest—I guess there is no other word to describe it in terms of how I feel about it—the greatest lie in this particular campaign, is the fact that our social programs are threatened under the free trade agreement, because that simply is not true and I will attempt to develop the argument with regard to that assertion by myself.

1540

First of all, I do not think most people understand that the free trade agreement is in fact negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and this is in fact acknowledged on page 9 of the free trade agreement. It reads, "The Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America, consistent with Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, hereby establish a free trade area." Therefore, this agreement is subject to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

One of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade rules that is extremely important says that generally available social programs such as medicare, education, unemployment insurance, pensions, and so on are not countervailable. That means that social programs cannot come under attack from another country as unfair subsidy or an unfair barrier to trade. When you talk about countervailing actions, that is the method by which one country can question what in fact is taking place in the other. I believe that, in the past six or seven years, Canada has taken countervailing actions against the United States in 26 cases and the United States has taken countervailing action against us in 19.

In fact, one case was mentioned by the member for Hamilton East, and I thought he used the example in reverse, quite frankly. He mentioned that in one case the United States challenged Canada's right to pay unemployment insurance benefits to fishermen. A US judge sitting in a US court under US law found that these Canadian benefits were fair and legal.

The GATT rules take precedence over the views of any single country. If you are going to be part of GATT—and 96 countries in the world are—then when you are dealing with another country and you are dealing with trade, our rules in Canada, the rules of United States, the rules of all of the European Community are subjected to, or are not as important as, the GATT rules. Therefore, there has already been the test case as to our ability under present law to protect our social programs. A US judge found this. Under

this agreement, we of course create a binational panel not only with US representatives but with Canadians as well.

The free trade agreement further incorporates article 20 of the GATT rules as a clause within the free trade agreement. This provides further clarification of certain import and export measures that are considered legal under both GATT and free trade, including measures to protect public morals, for instance, pornography controls; to protect human, animal or plant life or health; for environmental protection and health programs; to implement product standards; and to protect items of artistic, historic and archaeological value, and there are other provisions as well. Not only do we have the general rules of GATT to protect our social programs, which were incorporated in this agreement, but also we have specifics as to other things that are over and above that protection.

The free trade agreement also includes a clause which states that something cannot be attacked as unfair trade if it meets a legitimate domestic object. I refer to article 603 of the free trade agreement on page 71 of the agreement. It says:

"Neither party shall maintain or introduce standards-related measures or procedures for product approval that would create unnecessary obstacles to trade between the territories of the parties. Unnecessary obstacles to trade shall not be deemed to be created if:

"a) the demonstrable purpose of such measure or procedure is to achieve a legitimate domestic objective; and

"b) the measure or procedure does not operate to exclude goods of the other party that meet that legitimate domestic objective."

In other words, not only do we have the protection of GATT, as we do now—and a countervailing action can take place today, before any free trade agreement is agreed to—but we get additional protection in the free trade agreement under article 603.

The services annex on pages 201 to 203 of the agreement gives us more specificity as to what is covered and what is not covered. There are no government-provided services on the list. This list on pages 201 to 203 includes the various kinds of trades and services that are under the agreement. It does not include unemployment insurance, pensions, child care or workers' compensation. None of these government-provided services are on this list.

Yesterday evening I heard Ed Broadbent talking about health care management services, which are on the list. We have one hospital in

Ontario that is managed by an American company at this time, but there is nothing in the agreement which says that Ontario, through public hospitals, must let management contracts go to Americans. There is nothing which says that we have to give a contract to Americans to manage any health care facility. That is not giving up our health care program in any way, shape or form, nor could it be argued to be.

Anyone who suggests that medicare is somehow compromised by the free trade agreement should be able to find and point to an article in this agreement that defines that kind of restriction on our ability to make sovereign decisions in these fields. They cannot find one in this agreement, because there is not one. Therefore, all of the claims that we have heard in this federal election with regard to the attack on our social programs are not based on fact; they are not based on what is in this agreement; they are not based on what economists are writing. In fact, if I refer back to Mr. Watson's article, "How does the free trade agreement change the current state of affairs? Explicitly, not very much. But if it changes at all, it probably reduces the US ability to challenge our social programs in the future."

In other words, they are losing what they have at present under the GATT rules to attack our ability to provide social programs. That is the way it really is, but that is not the way it is being portrayed. We get compulsory consultation on changes in US law, as well as exemption from them, unless we are specifically named.

There has been a lot of rhetoric about attacking our social programs. But when questioned as to where they draw those conclusions from, they are based on the fact that we are going to be swallowed up, in terms of the fact that taxation policies over in the United States may be different from here. That is the way it is now. That is the way Ed Broadbent wants it to be in the future, because Ed Broadbent says that he is for trade liberalization. He wants tariff barriers to fall between our two countries. He cannot have it both ways, nor can Mr. Turner have it both ways, when he talks to 65- and 70-year-olds and says that their medicare will be cut off after the free trade agreement is in.

The last item I would like to talk about is that I was quite amazed the other day to receive, as I think all MPPs received, an article called *On Balance*, which is a media treatment of public policy issues. I opened it up and was reading it. It deals with the media coverage with regard to the free trade issue. I would like to read some parts of it. It is little wonder that the public is getting one

side of the issue. They analyse two media sources, the CBC and the Globe and Mail.

1550

Mr. Fleet: Blame the media.

Mr. Sterling: I am not blaming the media. I am going to read what people who presumably have the research to look into it have a chance to put.

"In terms of the frequency of statements made on each position, the number of statements against free trade far outnumbers those in favour. The Globe and Mail was consistent in its coverage, in that those opposed to free trade were given almost twice as much space to provide their views than those supporting the deal."

Mr. Harris: What about the CBC?

Mr. Sterling: "As indicated in figure 1, although the CBC had roughly the same number of individuals supporting and rejecting the free trade agreement, the effective access provided to each was such that the statements critical of free trade accounted for two thirds of CBC's coverage on the issue. In other words, on this medium, which is regularly watched by nearly two million Canadians, statements critical of free trade were heard twice as often as those in support of the agreement."

"In assessing this outcome, it is important to remember that both television and newspapers are selective media, in the sense that the journalist in each case usually assembles more material than actually used in given news items. To that extent, the individuals who appear in the story, the questions which are asked, as well as the number and the nature of statements included in the article, are all under the control of the journalist constructing of the item. In this connection, it is interesting to examine who the media chose to represent the various positions held on free trade."

Mr. Fleet: How about the Star?

Mr. Sterling: Nobody needs to do a media analysis of free trade in that. They have written very few articles with regard to the free trade issue.

I was amazed to read this. We are talking about government representatives on this issue. It is interesting to know who got the second-largest coverage on this particular issue. It was not Robert Bourassa, who represents some six million people in the country. It was not any of the other premiers who represent larger provinces. The second-largest presence on the free trade issue was Joe Ghiz of Prince Edward Island, who was also opposed. He was cited

more extensively than any other premier, other than our Premier, in the Globe and Mail.

Therefore, I feel that in presenting this issue to the public—we have polls now existing that, I am told, show there are more people against this particular agreement than for it. If that is the case, I understand why. They are being told by the media, which are not giving a balanced coverage on the issue, according to, as I understand it, a media group.

Mr. Laughren: Was it the C. D. Howe Institute?

Mr. Sterling: No, this group is totally nonpolitical, as far as I know.

At any rate, I did not want to introduce any rhetoric in this particular matter.

Mr. Fleet: There is no rhetoric in this, no.

Mr. Sterling: No, there is not. It is probably very boring to listen to because I have tried to keep to the agreement and to some logical arguments.

I guess there are few issues on which I have felt as strongly as this particular issue, as strongly in terms of the misrepresentation by politicians on all sides of this particular issue.

As politicians, I guess the lesson we learn out of it all as well is that if we are given government, if we are given the right to govern, do not try to do anything that is complicated in the future because you set yourself up as a target, and this agreement is a complicated agreement.

I think the New Democratic Party, the federal Liberal Party and the provincial Liberal Party have taken advantage of that and have not tried to be fair with the agreement. They have, in my view, misrepresented what the intention of the agreement was. I think it is a shameful lesson for politicians. Basically, the conclusion is, do not tell people what you are going to do. We do not know where John Turner is going to raise \$32 billion of promises. What it tells me as a politician is, do not try to do something that is futuristic because you are going to get shot at from all sides by warping of the truth at the very best. Therefore, I think this election is a sorry tale on the democracy of our country.

I am really upset that we have to go through these last two weeks with the negative advertising we are seeing on television by both sides. But I only say that—

An hon. member: This side, not the third side.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I am getting sniped at, as you know, by the New Democratic

Party in particular. I only say to them that it is unfortunate they continue to support the Liberal Party, both at the provincial level and at the federal level, and seem to get it in the neck every time.

I will finally conclude by saying that the criticism of this free trade agreement has been emotional. They have refused to go to the agreement. They have refused to set down their argument in cold, hard terms, and therefore the public is confused because it is a complicated matter. I think the media should give more attention and fairer play to both sides of the issue.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: At the outset, I might just say that I note the member for Carleton has attempted a little bit to even up the lineage on the debate in that he has indicated, over a long period of time, his opposition to free trade. I also think it is rather cynical to suggest that the Gallup poll on this issue reflects newspaper lineage. I think the people of Canada are more thoughtful than that on this particular issue, and certainly on others.

We have often wondered what motivates the official opposition when discussing the Canada-United States free trade agreement. They seem to agree with the government on so many aspects of our opposition to the agreement.

They agree with us that it fails to provide increased access to United States markets and that it does nothing to counteract American protectionist legislation, as was emphasized by the recent passage of the United States omnibus trade act which strengthens the ability of United States industries to launch trade actions against Canada.

They agree that it severely curtails provincial powers and could bring about an end to the spirit of co-operative federalism that has guided Canada for so long and that it fails to protect our extensive network of social programs, our environment, our health care system and our strong public education system, and they agree that tariffs should be reduced more gradually in our country than in the United States.

They agree that our agricultural marketing board system is in grave jeopardy and that the free trade agreement severely restricts our bargaining power at the current round of GATT negotiations.

They agree that the agreement fails to ensure sovereign control over our water resources. They agree that it overrides both federal and provincial water policies, laws and regulations.

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They agree that our sovereignty has been dangerously compromised by restrictions placed

on following an independent energy policy. They agree that there is a threat to our ability to differentially price energy exports to the United States and use energy as a tool to further Canadian economic expansion. They agree that our security of supply is threatened by requiring that the United States be given proportional access to Canadian energy supplies, even in times of shortage. They agree that the auto pact has been gutted. In effect, they agree that this agreement spells disaster for Canada, economically, socially and politically.

What they do not agree with, and I really cannot understand this, is the necessity to deal with the reality of Canada's and Ontario's economic situation, that 90 per cent of Ontario's trade is with the United States and that we simply have to deal with the Americans. We simply have to talk to them. The official opposition does not seem to be able to accept this fact.

The concept of freer trade is really not the issue at stake. The Mulroney government does us a disservice by claiming that the concept has been achieved in this particular deal. In other words, a good trade deal should ensure access for our businesses to American markets. This is what we wanted. The Mulroney proposal does not. Furthermore, a good deal should provide for a mechanism that effectively settles trade disagreements between our two countries. The Mulroney deal does not.

I would remind members that three weeks after the Prime Minister wrote to President Reagan in September 1985 requesting these negotiations, I tabled a report in this Legislature asking that while the primary focus should be on GATT negotiations, negotiations with the United States to create an international joint trade commission with binding power to bind both countries in a dispute settlement resolution should be proceeded with.

The finance committee reasoned that the Americans were acting the bully because of their significant trading power, and that this was one area where we would be wise to seek an understanding, with a body that could review the situation in both countries on matters such as subsidies. Being the world's strongest trading nation for 40 years, the United States has led the world in reducing traditional tariffs, but at the same time, it has finessed its position by building complicated nontariff barriers almost twice as high as Canada's, when you take into consideration the nontariff barriers.

Prior to the commencement of the Tokyo round of GATT in 1970, the United States passed

its countervail legislation, laws that permit any producer, company, union or individual in the United States at any time to allege that it is being economically damaged by an import. The moment they do so, they trigger an automatic investigation to determine if there is economic suffering as a result of the import. If there is, an automatic investigation into the foreign country, and that is us, takes place to determine whether or not the government of that country is, by United States definitions, subsidizing the import. If the United States Department of Commerce decrees a subsidy is in place, there is a tariff levied on the product from that country sufficient to overcome the economic loss.

The United States convinced the rest of the GATT countries to accept this concept. From the conclusion of the Tokyo round in 1980 until February of this year, the United States has used countervail and antidumping on its trading partners 629 times: for Canada, 38; for the European Community, six; for Japan, once. Only once did anyone try to use it against the United States, and that was with mixed results.

Bearing all this in mind, we demanded of the American negotiators, and we demanded time and time again, that countervail be negotiated. It became obvious that they knew they did not need to do this because the trade negotiations office had not even put it on the bargaining table.

Finally, on August 12, 1986, my whole finance committee met with Alan Nymark, assistant chief negotiator of the trade negotiations office in Ottawa. He admitted that the matter had not in fact been put on the bargaining table for a binding dispute settlement resolution.

Notice that we are talking about Canadian subsidies. American subsidies, be it their industrial bond programs or mortgage deductibility on their income tax or defence contracts, are not subject to American laws. Only Canadian subsidies are so considered.

All of the predictions made by the deal's advocates claiming that economic benefits will result from this deal ignore the fact that our access to United States markets has not been secured. We were promised relief from an unfair law that permits the Americans to set up tariffs whenever their producers receive government help, regardless of the help they get, which is often much greater than the help Canadians get. Mulroney broke that promise. This, then, is why we did not gain access to American markets.

Of course, they did not deliver. The federal government asked Canadians to go on to the American tribunals to enforce American laws.

Curiously, unlike present American tribunals, provinces such as Ontario will be barred from the new one. We were promised their subsidies would be considered by an international joint body when there were disputes, and Mulroney broke that promise.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, are so desperate to bolster their federal counterpart that they decided last Christmas in this House to support this deal, in spite of Larry Grossman's statements during the September 1987 provincial election when he insisted his party also would not accept a free trade deal that did not comply with the six points pointed out by the Premier.

The Liberal Party has taken a clear, forward-looking position on international trade and we have never strayed from it. We believe in liberalized trade. We believe trade with the United States is essential to this country's continued economic wellbeing. Canada and Ontario must focus on expanding multilateral trade, and we now have an excellent opportunity to do so during the current round of GATT negotiations.

The basic conclusion of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, in its most recent report, is that the free trade agreement as it stands is a bad deal for Canada and should be rejected. In my own riding, I have found that as many as 24,000 jobs may be put at risk by this agreement.

The New Democratic Party seems to be unaware of the origins or implications of article 103. It is very carefully crafted. It is the result not of careful federal-provincial negotiations, and the member for Sault Ste. Marie knows this, but is the action of a federal government that was desperate to reach an agreement with the United States after spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal opinions.

The agreement does not reflect federal-provincial discussions at all. The agreement reached avoids the whole notion of federal responsibility. It works around areas such as provincial procurement. It gives a foreign power, the United States, the power of retaliation against each jurisdiction within Canada if all necessary measures are not taken to ensure provincial and municipal compliance.

When it comes to the question of challenging the free trade agreement in the courts, the finance committee heard all the evidence. We studied the Constitution. We listened to Professor Daniel Drache and Dr. Scott Fairley. We listened to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). We read his exhaustive legal analysis. We listened to Dr.

John Saywell and Professor Peter Russell. Among all these experts, not one gave us any real reason to believe that we could mount a successful court challenge to the free trade agreement at this time.

Specifically, the provisions of the trade and commerce clauses, of peace, order and good government, and of section 91 of the act might make it foolish to take on the agreement in an attempt to implement it if it infringed on provincial jurisdiction.

The federal government has a constitutional right to negotiate a trade agreement, and today there is no enabling legislation to challenge. We will examine such legislation if it occurs and make certain that provincial rights are not abrogated in the face of this treaty. If they would be, the Leader of the Opposition, in presenting this sort of resolution, would be charging into the Supreme Court, playing the hero with guns blazing, and in his wake would lie a bruised and beaten Ontario, which the federal government might well leave for dead.

Mr. Laughren: I thought it appropriate to begin my remarks by reading into the record the precise nonconfidence motion, particularly because a lot of people who watch this place on television came on in the middle of it. The nonconfidence motion reads as follows:

"That the government lacks the confidence of this House because of its abject failure to deliver on its six-point promise during the 1987 election campaign that if certain conditions were not met on the Canada-US free trade negotiations, there would be 'no deal,' even though none of those conditions were met; and because the three so-called anti-free-trade bills now before this House—bills 147, 168 and 175—add nothing to the ability of the government of Ontario to resist, oppose or differ from the provisions of the Mulroney trade deal, in the interest of the ordinary working people of the province." That is the nonconfidence motion.

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You have to understand that when an opposition party in a Legislature where there is a massive majority, in this case by the Liberals, moves a nonconfidence motion, it must feel very strongly that something is amiss in the way in which the majority is governing.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mackenzie: They are all trained seals down there.

Mr. Laughren: I should tell you, Mr. Speaker, if this government had taken some actions between six months and a year ago that we had suggested to it in this chamber, there would not have been need for a nonconfidence motion.

Mr. Mackenzie: There would be no free trade deal.

Mr. Laughren: There would be no free trade deal at the present time.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. One member at a time.

Mr. Laughren: It is quite possible that we will end up with no free trade deal. It is quite possible that because of the results of the federal election, there will not be a deal, but it will be no thanks to the Liberal government of Ontario if there is no deal at the federal level, absolutely no thanks whatsoever, because the Premier and his troops have been all fluff and no stuff when it comes to opposing the free trade deal. There has been all talk and no action.

I will not go over them all, but of the points that are referred to in our nonconfidence motion and were laid out in more detail by other members that the Premier said during the election campaign of 1987 he would insist on before he would agree to any deal, none of those things has been dealt with. The Premier said he had veto power over the free trade deal. Well, he said that one day and he said another day he did not have veto power. He said it to different people at different times.

What is bothering us a great deal is that the Premier seems to be trying to walk a very fine line in that if, for example, the results of the federal election were to have given a Progressive Conservative majority, then the Premier would have fallen into line so fast it would have made our heads swim, because he had all the contradictory statements to point to to show that he really was not that opposed to the free trade deal if events had unfolded that way.

We do not think events are going to unfold that way, so now the Premier can make all the protestations he wants and claim he is opposed to the free trade deal, because it looks as though it is not going to happen, but I want to tell you, up until the last couple of weeks, the Premier was trying to walk both sides of the street at once and that simply is not acceptable.

You do not need to look very far. You do not need to look beyond a couple of the bills that were introduced in this House and which are

referred to specifically in our nonconfidence motion.

Let me look for a moment at An Act respecting the Power Corporation Act, which deals with the supply of power in Ontario.

This party had asked the Premier last spring to bring into this chamber a bill that would establish a special hydro rate for economically disadvantaged areas of the province, such as northern Ontario. We said to him, "Do it. Do it as a challenge to the free trade agreement," which of course prohibits that.

The Premier did absolutely nothing about it—absolutely nothing. He refused to do it. He stood in his place and said, "No, we may take some actions to support disadvantaged areas of the province, but that will not be one of them." That is basically what he said.

Now we have the Minister of Energy introducing a bill called An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act which pretends to do what we had asked them to do but, of course, does not do it—simply does not do it.

It would have been very easy for the Minister of Energy to bring in a bill which did what the standing committee on finance and economic affairs suggested be done. This is the recommendation of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, and by the way, the majority of the committee supported this recommendation. This is recommendation 7:

"The government of Ontario implement a program to reduce energy prices in economically disadvantaged areas such as northern Ontario to encourage economic development in those regions of our province, while at the same time presenting a direct challenge to the dangerous energy provisions of the free trade agreement."

I think that is a very, very sensible recommendation. Why would the Minister of Energy bring in this insipid piece of legislation—to use a polite word—when he had that recommendation right in front of him? Why would he bring in this bill? It is ridiculous. Then, in obvious embarrassment at how little was in this bill, he says he is withdrawing it now. What kind of commitment is that—a challenge to the free trade agreement? It is no commitment whatsoever.

There were Liberal members of the economic affairs committee that supported that recommendation. I wonder what those members said in caucus when the Minister of Energy said that was the way the bill was going to be. I wonder if they spoke up. I doubt it very, very much. What a cowed bunch they are.

Mr. Mackenzie: Ferraro supported it. Did you raise it in caucus?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: There is no reason that the minister would withdraw the bill other than he was embarrassed by it. I am sure his colleagues said to him: "Oh, Mr. Wong, you surely can't proceed with that bill, given the recommendation that some of our own members made in the economic affairs committee." What kind of backbone is his cabinet showing? They are out there pretending that they are opposed to free trade, but then hedging their bets every step of the way.

The other bill that was introduced and is to be debated tomorrow in this chamber is a bill called Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water. Mr. Speaker, I know you follow this debate very closely on free trade across this country, and one of the issues has been whether or not water is part of the free trade agreement. We challenged this government to bring in a bill that would simply stop the transfer of water. I do not think that was a very challenging demand from this side. Certainly, it would not be difficult to say that for waters over which Ontario has jurisdiction there shall be no export of water. I do not think that is a difficult challenge, given the fine legal minds that sit on the government's front bench; at least, so they would have us believe.

Let me tell members some of the provisions of that bill and why we think it is a joke. Just as the Power Corporation Amendment Act was a joke and was withdrawn, this one might as well be withdrawn too. It is a piece of junk, and that is why we have sent the minister over some amendments, which he may or may not accept.

If he really wanted to stop the export of water, would he put this in the bill? Section 2: "No person shall transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin by any means"—it would be nice if it stopped there, but it goes on to say—"without the written approval of the minister." Another way of reading this would be, "Any person can transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin with the approval of the minister." That is exactly what it said, and it is the same thing. He is saying, "Go to it. All you have got to do is convince the Minister of Natural Resources," in this case, Vince Kerrio.

An hon. member: Convince Vince.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. You have got to phone Vince.

Section 3 of the bill says, "A person who requests approval to transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin shall submit to the minister plans, reports, studies and other information as are prescribed or as may be requested by the minister."

So after you have phoned, he is going to say, "Well, make sure you send me what you intend to do." Then, of course, he could approve it. Once again, he can approve it. All he has got to have is something in front of him that tells him what you intend to do.

Section 4 of the bill: "(1) The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate." Now you can do it if you pay him. There is nothing sacred. It sounds to me like Brian Mulroney's promise that social programs were a sacred trust.

What the Minister of Natural Resources is saying is, "Our water is a sacred trust, unless you pay me or unless you put plans in front of us that tell us what you intend to do."

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Subsection 4(2) of the bill reads, "The amount to be paid to the Crown for a transfer of water under subsection 1 may be a lump sum, a fixed periodic payment, an amount calculated according to the quantity of water transferred, or any combination thereof, and may be made payable on such terms as are prescribed or as the minister determines."

We are saying to people who might want to divert the water, "Of course, you can do it if (1) you promise to tell the minister about it; (2) show him how you intend to do it, with some plans; (3) pay him, but we will make the payments easy for you too." I can see the ads now. They will borrow from the furniture ads, "No payments till next year or the next century."

It is an absolutely ridiculous bill which allows the Minister of Natural Resources to do what he wants with our water. What is even worse than the present system is that it does not require any more legislation. If this bill were to pass in its present form, there would be no debate in this chamber, in the form of a bill before us, to debate whether or not a particular diversion was appropriate or not, because the minister is given final powers to do what he wants with it.

I ask the members opposite, do they really think this is standing up for Ontario's interest, for Canada's interest, in opposition to the free trade agreement? This is not in opposition to the free

trade agreement; it is an endorsement of it, because it allows the minister to go ahead with it, to go with the flow, as it were.

There have been many examples of why we are fearful of the free trade agreement. I want to point out one no one has talked about a lot which I think is terribly important. I have here the actual free trade agreement itself and the articles contained therein. Article 408, "Export Taxes," reads, "Neither party"—meaning the US and Canada—"shall maintain or introduce any tax, duty, or charge on the export of any good to the territory of the other party, unless such tax, duty, or charge is also maintained or introduced on such good when destined for domestic consumption."

What that really is saying to us is we cannot do anything domestically to a product or a service we do not do to our trading partner, in this case, the US. That is the kind of statement we would like to see this government challenge in areas where we have some jurisdiction. To go back to the supply of energy, why would the minister not introduce a bill that said we are directly challenging that section and we are going to put into place a law that says there shall be a different price for energy in northern Ontario than there is for the energy we export? I am not saying that as a representative of northern Ontario so much as someone who wants to see a direct challenge to this free trade agreement by Ontario.

I will say it once again. If this free trade agreement dies, it will be because of events outside Ontario. It will not be anything that this government has done to interfere with the working of the free trade agreement, because once he got his majority government in 1987, the Premier backed off and said maybe he thought he could have a veto power, but now he realizes he could not and basically what he would have done was gone along with the free trade agreement if it so transpired.

For those reasons we have moved the nonconfidence motion, because we have seen no evidence whatsoever that this government is doing what it can to put an end to the free trade agreement.

Mr. Harris: I thank my colleagues for having allowed me a couple of minutes to get a couple of thoughts on the record. First of all, this motion is a motion of lack of confidence by this House in the government. It is a motion I heartily endorse and a motion I will be supporting. This motion also specifies that the House lacks confidence in the government as a result of its handling or mishandling of the free trade issue. I share that

sentiment. I believe very strongly that this government has failed the people of Ontario in its handling of the whole free trade issue.

Third, this motion talks about the free trade deal in the context of the interests of ordinary working people in this province. I sincerely believe that this government deserves our lack of confidence because of its handling of the free trade deal, and specifically in the interests of and for the benefit of the ordinary working people of this province.

They have done nothing over the period since they have been in office, recognizing that tariff barriers were coming down slowly around the world and indeed with the United States, with or without the free trade deal. They have done nothing to address those areas of economic readjustment that we all acknowledge will be required in some of the sectors. They have done nothing to reach out for the tremendous opportunities that free trade will bring to Ontario.

Indeed, virtually every state of the United States and virtually every other province believes this deal will be of the most benefit to Ontario. We have done nothing to prepare to capitalize on those opportunities that will be made available to this province. I would go so far as to say that with or without this free trade deal, we know the Premier has said he is committed to free trade with the United States. John Turner has said that he is committed to free trade with the United States. Those are the types of things that a provincial government can be and should be and ought to be doing.

I support the motion. I have no confidence in this government. I think it has bungled free trade on behalf of Ontario and I think it has not kept the interests of ordinary working people in the province in mind.

Mr. Pelissero: I consider it an honour and a privilege to put some remarks on the record with respect to this government's performance and the dialogue that has been carried on with respect to the free trade agreement and agriculture.

I think that ever since the free trade agreement was first released in its draft form, from the very beginning the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) held a seminar to which he invited officials from the United States to talk about the implications and the impact of the free trade agreement on the agricultural sector. The implications for the agricultural sector are long-term and far-reaching. They have, in fact, been estimated at anywhere from a \$100-million to a \$110-million negative impact on the primary producers alone. I underscore "primary produc-

tion alone" because there is the processing sector which I would like to talk a little bit about, as well.

I think it is important to review what the status of the trading arrangement was in the agricultural commodities that are produced in Ontario. In the red meat sector, we virtually had free trade between Canada and the United States. There were some nontariff barrier issues that were being addressed. Indeed, there was a countervail action brought against our pork industry. There was a split decision between live hogs and the finished product.

In the cash crop sector, most of the time we are in competition with the United States as opposed to its being a customer of ours. We grow some high-quality wheat in certain parts of Ontario and Canada that they do not grow in the United States. We are, in fact, competition to the United States, as opposed to being customers.

The fruit and vegetable industry has been identified as an industry that will lose because of this agreement because they put in a small provision called the snapback provision, which means that the arrangement reverts to the agreements that were in place prior to the free trade agreement. If you talk to individuals in the fruit and vegetable industry, they will tell you that the current arrangements are not worth the paper they are written on, because by the time they establish the fact that dumping or injury has occurred, it is far too late in the season.

With regard to the wine industry, enough has been said about that and the damage that the free trade agreement has done to the wine industry in Ontario and the rest of Canada as well.

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In terms of supply management, probably the biggest falsity that is being put forward by the federal government and Brian Mulroney is saying that we have left supply management intact. In fact, they have done that in name only, because the supply management systems have been set up to meet a domestic requirement. They are never set up to meet an export requirement; they are always set up to meet a domestic need. Because of this agreement, product will be able to enter into this country as it never has before, in a finished form. If our producers in the supply management system will not meet the price at which they have to sell to the processors, the processors will in fact move to the United States.

I would like to read annex 706 into the record, and maybe title it "When is a Chicken not a Chicken?" It is on page 119 of the actual free trade agreement. Article 706 establishes the

amount of chicken that can come into the country because of the quota arrangements that we have in the province. Annex 706 says:

"1. For purposes of article 706:

"(a) chicken and chicken products means chicken and chicken capons, live or eviscerated, chicken parts, whether breaded or battered, and chicken products manufactured wholly thereof, whether breaded or battered."

That identifies what a chicken is. Paragraph 2 has a list that determine what chicken is not; it states:

"Without limiting the generality of subparagraph 1(a)," which I just read, "chicken and chicken products does not include chicken cordon bleu, breaded breast of chicken cordon bleu, chicken Kiev, breaded breast of chicken Kiev, boneless Rock Cornish with rice, stuffed Rock Cornish, boneless chicken with apples and almonds, chicken Romanoff Regell, chicken Neptune breast, boneless chicken Panache, chicken TV dinners, old roosters and 'spent fowl' commonly called 'stewing hen.'"

That is what chicken will not include. For those members who are watching at home and for the members who are not familiar with agriculture, that means processed product can come in here unchecked, and because it can come in here unchecked, the need for our producers to produce the product in a raw form is diminished. The processors will be going to the individuals who produce the supply-managed commodities and saying, "Look, either you match the price that we can get the chicken out of Georgia at or we'll buy from Georgia or simply move our plants down to the United States."

While they like to tell us that in fact the supply management system is there in name only, it is not there when we start talking about the actual products.

Also, something for the record: They negotiated and say: "Well, we gave up a small percentage. We increased the level of chicken coming into the country by one per cent." For every one per cent increase in the amount of chicken that comes into the country from the United States, there is \$18 million that is lost to Ontario and to Canada.

There are immediate impacts to be felt in some commodities—the wine industry, for instance, and the fruit and vegetable sector. I attended the same set of meetings that my friend the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) attended in terms of Europe. I came away with a totally different impression as to what the Europeans were telling us. They were saying that because of

the free trade agreement, when we get into international trading arrangements through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, they will be viewing Canada as part of the United States. They have as much as said that when they have dealt with the United States, they will have felt that they have dealt with Canada. We may have attended the same meetings, but we came away with two different impressions.

I think the ramifications for us when we have negotiated away the agricultural production and the agricultural processing industry, which is responsible for one in five jobs in this country, will be long-term and detrimental. We, as a government, have identified the facts and attempted to let them be known. We do that through speaking engagements and the actions that we have taken to date as a government.

I consider it an honour to take part in the debate and will be voting against this motion and have total confidence in this government.

Mr. Ferraro: It is a pleasure for me to participate in this debate today as I have over the last several years every time we have talked about free trade in the House.

I guess the first thing, having been involved with the committee since its inception and the three reports that we issued to the House on free trade, is that it is indeed a very difficult and confusing issue. I actually feel sorry for the average Canadian, to some degree, when he tries to comprehend all the different propaganda, if you will, the information, selective facts and so forth, because it is an extremely difficult topic to try to understand.

I want to touch on a few topics today that perhaps have not been the norm. The one that has to be addressed is the motive. I am not going to talk about the motive for the motion. I understand politics. I want to talk about motives that might be perceived from the standpoint of my leader, the Premier of Ontario, David Peterson.

Ontario, thankfully, is the most prosperous province in Canada; a province that had seven consecutive years of increase in gross national product without, I point out, a free trade agreement. It is a province that by everyone's deduction is going to be either the biggest winner or the biggest loser, assuming free trade is implemented, which in its present form I hope it is not.

Why would David Peterson, the Premier of Ontario, drag his feet on this? Why would he say, "I am against this"? Lord knows there are a lot of Liberals out there who support this deal. There are a lot of Conservatives who do not. There are

even some NDPers, I am told, who are in favour of this particular deal. To some degree, it is not really a partisan issue.

Why would he say no to this deal? Well, it has been said by certain sources that David Peterson wants to be the Prime Minister of Canada. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if you were laying the groundwork to be Prime Minister of Canada, would you say you were against a deal that was supported by seven out of 10 provinces, including Liberal governments? That does not make any sense.

Is he trying to be politically expedient? Is he doing it to get re-elected? I remind you that he has recently been elected with a new mandate and one of the largest majorities in the history of Ontario. He is fairly secure from a political standpoint, if we want to get down to the bottom line.

The reason David Peterson is opposed to this deal is that it is a bad deal. Now you have heard that. What makes this deal a bad deal? Did David Peterson get hit by an apparition one night?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would remind the member that when you refer to another member you refer to the riding or to the ministry.

Mr. Ferraro: Especially when he is my boss; that is good advice.

Would the Premier all of a sudden get hit by a lightning bolt in the middle of the night, notwithstanding some thoughts that are coming out of the opposition benches at the moment? Did he get an apparition that said, "Premier, you had better stand up and tell all of the world, all of Canada, that this is a bad deal"? The way he and this government came to this conclusion was with concise input, with a logical train of thought and with facts.

We have the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, which I had the pleasure of being involved with for three years, with a minister who is an outspoken opponent of this deal—we will hear him later confirm this—which has some of the best experts, certainly in Canada if not in North America. We have legal experts in this ministry, as well as in the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, who have analysed this deal. We have a law firm, a very respectable law firm in Washington, that is employed by the province of Ontario to give its input on this deal. The conclusion is that it is a bad deal. We are no further ahead today than we were the day before Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister, decided to undertake discussions into a free trade deal. So it is based on fact.

Another question is, they say, "The Premier said a bunch of things before the election, and now, of course, he is not being consistent." I remind the House that before the election we had no idea what the deal was going to be. Then all of a sudden, on December 11, we get 1,200 pages of the most convoluted, obtuse documentation that this country has ever seen. It is crazy. Just to talk about timing for a second: December 11 was the first day the Canadian public saw the deal, Christmastime. We had something like 11 working days to make up our minds on this deal. Twelve hundred pages of convoluted documentation that I believe no one really understands to the nth degree. We had 11 days for one of the most important documents in the history of this country. That does not make any sense to any normal business person, I do not believe; none at all.

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Having said that, the reality is that when we got these 1,200 pages, the federal government was smart enough, and I think intentionally so, to make it so that it did not affect provincial jurisdiction. This is my understanding; I believe it is the Premier's understanding. Constitutional experts have said there is really only one area where it impinges on provincial jurisdiction, and that is the wine and grape area. We are also simultaneously being hit with a GATT ruling that says we have to deal with it, and we are, not to the satisfaction of everyone, but we are still working on it. So there really is not a heck of a lot we can do, in my view, from a constitutional standpoint.

I am grateful that at least the people of Canada are going to have a say in it. Obviously by the recent polls they are becoming more tuned to, in my view, the facts that this Premier, this government and this Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology have been trying to present to the people.

The second thing I want to talk about is probably the part in the deal that frightens me the most, and that is the energy section. I can remember going down to Washington and after the press and media had left we were about to have lunch with some senators from the United States. One representative, I think his name was Dingell, was the finance subcommittee chairman, I believe. He put his arm—and I have said this before—around the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), he hugged him and he said, "Look, son, there's nothing we Americans want more than a fair advantage over you Canadians." Some people laughed, but truer words were never spoken, because they got it.

I talked about the timing from our perspective. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, with a bill of this magnitude—and there was a lot of opposition from the United States initially—when it comes to the House in the United States, it passes in one day? When it goes to the Senate, it passes in one day. Why? Because they got a bad deal?

I remember talking to Sam Gibbons in a committee meeting—and some of the members on the committee will remember this—about the energy section of this deal. Sam Gibbons stood up and said: “I can’t believe that. I’m going to have to check into it, sir.” He was dumfounded that we would sell away our energy resources to the degree we did.

I believe personally what happened on that infamous day was that Simon Reisman walked away from the negotiating table and the Prime Minister sent Mike Wilson and Pat Carney down there. They sold the farm.

The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) talked about being left with a skeleton and we are going to renegotiate and put some meat on those bones. I am telling members, the skeleton is in dire straits if we have those guys negotiating.

The energy section is the biggest sellout, in my view, of our sovereignty in the history of this country.

I want to talk about the US dollar. Everybody is worried all of a sudden because of the fluctuation in the US dollar.

I was in the banking business before I got into this life of crime. People used to say: “Rick, what are interest rates going to do? What’s the Canadian dollar going to do?” Well, I can tell the people of Ontario with the greatest degree of certainty that in my 13 years in the banking business I have an answer for them that without question they can take to the bank. We can have one guarantee as regards interest rates and the currency in this country vis-à-vis the American dollar and other currencies; that is they are going to fluctuate. That is the only guarantee.

I remind people that before we started negotiations our buck was at a 28-cent differential. Now, it is 20 cents. That is a fact of life. I think that is a fact of market forces and pre-election jitters. Quite frankly, if the Canadian dollar goes a little lower I will be happier.

I am proud to say I am a member of this government. I am proud to say that I follow David Peterson’s leadership and I am proud to say “Thank goodness for John Turner,” because he got the message out, notwithstanding what Ed Broadbent thinks.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I join the debate with a sense of déjà vu. We had a major debate on this subject over Christmas and all members will certainly remember that situation when we were here past our normal recess time.

An hon. member: Some weren’t here.

Mr. B. Rae: Did you ever get to Florida?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Some got there and some did not.

Again on May 31, we had another nonconfidence motion on exactly the same subject and with exactly the same sense of urgency, and today we are here again.

I have been listening all afternoon and I can say that in my opinion there has been no plowing of new fields; we have gone back over and over some of the same issues. But I would certainly like to put into the record the position of the government, where we are, how we got there, and what we have done.

First, I think it is important that the members know and that people who are watching know we have an issue that is absolutely at the core of our sense of country. Unfortunately it is being debated on two levels; one is on the economic concept of free trade, on which everybody seems to have an opinion, and the other is on the deal itself, on which very few people have an opinion because very few people understand it.

We have a poll done by the business community, and I think it would be fair to say that if any single group should know about the deal, you would think it would be members of the business community because, to them, it is going to affect their bottom line, and yet a poll done by the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto shows that of the businesses canvassed, 76.7 per cent of them do not understand the free trade agreement, and that was as recently as Monday when the results were reported.

So we have this two-level discussion, and I think it is important that people understand that we as a government have no problem with the economic concept of free trade. We are a trading partner; we are a trading province; it is absolutely critical to our economic wellbeing, probably more than any other country in the world. Fully close to 35 per cent of our gross domestic product is directly related to trade, which means that every 35 cents of every dollar that we have in our pockets is there because of trade. Compare that to the United States where it is 10 cents, and compare it to Japan where it is 15 cents.

Certainly anything that would enhance our ability to trade is something that we would desire, and surely when we have the largest

market in the world, the United States, as our next-door neighbour, where we share the same continent and where 90 per cent of our trade is now—and we are its largest customer—surely anything that would enhance that is to be desired and we would support it.

So what has happened? We were assured by a Prime Minister that this was going to benefit Canada, and I can say to members that if it were to benefit anybody, it would have benefited Ontario, because we are the major trading partner with the United States.

We, as a government, and our Premier looked at the proposal the Prime Minister had made and said that we would be prepared to support it under certain conditions. Again, I do not want to rehash that whole argument, but I will tell members the single most important condition we were looking for was security of access.

Why is that important, and why did we get into this deal?

Let's take a look at the geo-economic facts that were involved in it. First of all, Canada is a country of 25 million people. We are now very, very closely integrated with the United States economy. We are a branch plant economy. We have fewer people than California. So what is the big deal for the United States? What is it that they were looking for? Surely they were not looking for a greater penetration into our manufacturing sector; they already are the most significant foreign investor. We do not have exact figures because they do not break it out for Ontario, but I would put out a figure of about 40 per cent. I cannot say that is exactly the figure, but that is my best guesstimate. So surely that was not an issue.

It was not an issue that they did not have access to our market. All you have to do is look around in the streets, in the shops, in the movie theatres, on television, and you will find that they dominate. They absolutely do dominate.

So what was their *raison d'être* for getting involved in this deal? I submit that the one thing they are lacking that we have and that they need is energy.

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Where were we? What was our *raison d'être*? What was the thing we needed? Every businessman who has appeared before me and talked to me in front of the cabinet subcommittee said exactly the same thing, "We want security of access."

What does that mean? There is a misconception out there. It is very disheartening when you hear the rhetoric and the hyperbole that are being

given out, that there is an iron curtain across our border, and if we could only get this deal, that curtain will rise and we will get access to 250 million consumers. That is absolute rubbish. At the present time, fully 80 per cent of the goods and services traded between our two countries are duty free. Although there is no question that we would love to have greater access so there would be no barriers, we have a very significant trading relationship now.

What we really wanted was to make sure that we kept that relationship, that we were not subject to the capricious actions of the Department of Commerce—that is absolutely critical—so we would not be subjected to the softwood lumber, the cedar shakes and shingles, that kind of thing. That is what we wanted, and if we could get it, we were prepared to give up something.

What happened? I can tell members that the Premier, myself and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) went to Ottawa where we met with our colleagues from across the country and with the Prime Minister to look at the elements of the deal.

I want to pick up on a point made by my colleague the member for Guelph. Being politicians, if this were a good deal, not only would we have supported it, but we would have taken credit for it. We would have said, "It is a good deal, and the only reason it is a good deal is because Ontario got the deal." But what happened is that we went in, we looked at the deal and we said: "It is not a good deal. It does not meet the basic criteria of the exercise."

There is no question that there is some dispute. It has been argued in the law firms of Canada, it has been argued in the press, and it has been argued at forums, at debates and in various legislatures across this country as to what we got and what we did not get.

In my opinion—it is an opinion that is backed up by many other authorities; I am certainly going to quote one, anyway—the thing we got was a dispute settlement mechanism that may or may not be better than what we had. Again, that is subject to interpretation. Before, we had access to the international court in New York. Now we have a bilateral panel made up of two Americans, two Canadians and a chairman to be selected by both parties. What we did not get is security of access.

What does that mean? The most vexatious thing that happens to Canadian exporters is the enforcement of either a 201 or a 301 action. The 201 has to do with dumping and the 301 has to do with countervail. What that means is that under

dumping, you are selling a product in another jurisdiction below the cost of your product where you are in your jurisdiction. Under countervail, you are selling a product that in the opinion of the perceived offended party, has been subsidized back home.

That, of course, is the issue behind the softwood lumber case. As members know, we are paying a 15 per cent surtax to redress that seeming inequity on the part of the allegations made by the United States.

The problem we have is that this particular trade remedy is used capriciously. The Department of Commerce does it when it thinks it can make a case and dissuade Canadian exporters. That is the thing we were trying to get recourse from.

I would like to quote the Prime Minister; I think one of my colleagues already has. He said in the *Globe and Mail* on April 20, 1987, the US "trade remedy laws cannot apply to Canada, period." That is what we are talking about.

Let me quote another official. This one happens to be Ann Hughes, who is the deputy assistant secretary for the western hemisphere in the US Department of Commerce. She was writing in a publication called *Trade Trends*.

She says, "Guaranteed access to the US market that Canada got from the agreements is"—she is talking about the guaranteed access. She says: "Canada wanted to be exempted from US anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws, or at least wanted to have them changed to provide a more predictable business environment. In the end, the issues were too complex and difficult to resolve in the time available to us." Ann Hughes makes it clear that we did not get it.

That is basically the crux of what this document was supposed to do. It was to protect our investors. We did not get it. We did not get a lot of other things and we said, "We are not going to support it."

A more dramatic example of that particular issue is what has just happened with Bethlehem Steel. Members, I am sure, will know that the Department of Commerce in the United States has accepted the petition of Bethlehem Steel against Sysco, which is Sydney Steel Corp., in Nova Scotia, and Algoma Steel in Ontario. What is most significant about their acceptance of that petition is the basis of their acceptance. What they have agreed to look into, and I think that when we are talking about lies—I do not want to use rhetoric, but it puts the lie to the allegations that regional development programs are not

under attack, that a lot of these other programs are not under attack.

Let me just list what programs are being questioned by the Department of Commerce: the income tax exemption for Sysco; certain investment tax credits; regional development incentives programs and industrial and regional development programs—that is, Department of Regional Economic Expansion, Department of Regional Industrial Expansion—loans under the enterprise development program; defence industry productivity program, which I referred to the other day in the House, called DIPP; promotional projects program; programs for export market development; the federal expansion and development of northern Ontario—Fednor, the Northern Ontario Development Advisory Board for those members who are in the north who know about it; community-based industrial adjustment program grants; export credit financing; equity infusions, grants, loans and loan guarantees provided to Sysco; iron ore freight subsidy to Algoma; mineral development agreement benefits to Algoma; general development agreements; economic and regional development agreements.

These are the issues that the Department of Commerce has decided it will look into because it thinks they provide a subsidy.

That is an issue that, with or without the free trade agreement, we are going to have to deal with. The significant point is that if you are going to accept the free trade agreement, there is a provision in there for a standstill, which means both parties would agree that until the agreement is signed there will be no implementation of anything that counters the agreement. And what do we have? We have the Department of Commerce accepting the petition of Bethlehem Steel, which effectively means that every one of our incentive programs or regional development programs is open to attack.

There has been a lot of talk over the last few days about the various amendments or bills that we have brought in and that have been categorized as anti-free trade legislation. I would like to talk to that briefly, in that under the constitutional audit that was done by the Attorney General, he and his officials determined that there are provisions in this agreement that can affect the sovereignty of our jurisdiction and of Canada. I think it is important that members understand what we are talking about when we mean "sovereignty."

Sovereignty does not mean what a lot of people think it does, and that is that they are going to take over our country and we are going

to lose it. What it means is that we are no longer going to have the ability to determine our own fate. It means that under this agreement, we now have a third party sitting at the table with us to determine what it is we should be doing and whether or not it complies with what the Americans think would be fair and equitable. It may work out, it may not, but it is important that members know that we have now opened the door, that we now have—if this agreement goes through—a third party sitting at the table, telling us, "You can or cannot do that because of this agreement."

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I also want to address another situation that is very current today. By coincidence or happenstance, we are involved in observing a federal election to the south of us. It is a little early to know the results, but if the polls hold, I do not think there is any question that George Bush will be the President of the United States.

At the present time, we have a situation at Sydney Steel Corp., and Algoma is a perfect example, where steel companies around the world operate under what is known as a VRA, a voluntary restraint agreement. Canada is not part of that. We have a gentleman's agreement and that allows us to go to about 3.5 per cent of the market. The thrust by Bethlehem Steel is to force us into that voluntary restraint agreement.

This is a letter dated November 4. This is not ancient history, this is not something that someone dredged up over two or three year ago. This was written just about a week ago, and it was written by George Bush, the Vice-President of the United States, to the Honourable John Heinz. John Heinz, I am sure some members know, is of Heinz Ketchup fame, but his more recent fame is that he is the leader of the steel lobby in the United States. In the letter to Mr. Heinz, George Bush says:

"I can assure you of my intention to continue the voluntary restraint program after September 30, 1989. As Vice-President, I worked to prevent the sacrifice of our industry to those who choose not to subject themselves to the disciplines of the market and I have no intention of abandoning that commitment if I am elected President."

So we have a situation. I can tell members that when I met with the Canadian steel association, it told me that without this free trade agreement it would not have any protection. I suggest that with or without this agreement, they will not have the protection and this agreement will not give them the protection they seek.

In the last couple of minutes I have, I want to address one last issue that was brought up earlier in the debate, and that is the auto pact. Members will know—I have told them before—that I have a letter from the Prime Minister of Canada, dated July 3, 1987, to the Premier in which he says:

"On the Canada-US negotiations, our position has been made clear on numerous occasions and again recently in the House of Commons. We believe that the auto pact is working well. Canada has not and will not address the pact in the negotiations."

That was written only about six weeks before they signed the agreement. Someone earlier today—a member of the third party, actually—raised: "Why worry? The auto pact can be cancelled in one year and the free trade agreement can be cancelled in six months."

I suggest to members that the auto pact has been in effect for 22 years. It has benefited the United States during some of that time and benefited Canada and Ontario in other parts of the time. Experts are unanimous that the auto pact is not affected, but with the free trade agreement, and I think this is very significant, you cannot unscramble the egg. If you put this agreement into effect, it is not an auto pact. It touches every sector, every fibre of our country, and to suggest that once all these things go into place and after all of these things happen, you are going to put it back together again is not only silly; it is not dealing with reality.

We have been constant in our opposition to this agreement. It has been interesting to see that the rest of the country seems to be coming around.

The Deputy Speaker: The minister's time is up.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I will finish in a moment. I would suggest to members that we have been diligent. We have kept the people of Ontario totally informed. We have been the only government, with the exception of Prince Edward Island's, that has been in tune with its people. If you take a look at the recent polls you will find that in every region of this country there are more people opposed to the agreement than are in favour of it. I can say to you that we have dealt with this in a responsible, consistent manner and we will certainly be voting to defeat the motion.

Mr. Brandt: I welcome this opportunity to respond in part to what the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) offered to this House by way of a reason for his party's particular and unusual position with respect to

the proposed free trade agreement. It is interesting to note in the wording of the nonconfidence motion that some reflections were made back to a certain point in time, in reference to commitments made by the government, both in connection with the six-point platform, the no-deal platform that has now become rather infamous in Ontario politics, as well as the promise of a veto with respect to this deal.

Although I part company with the official opposition with respect to its position on free trade, I have to part company in a very dramatic sense from the government's lack of follow-through with respect to its promises to the people of Ontario. It comes as no surprise to those in this House that I am going to be speaking on the other side of the issue as it relates to the reasons my party very firmly and consistently has supported a trade pact with the United States of America. We do so in what we believe to be, and I say this to you in all sincerity, the best interests of the people of Ontario and the best interests of the people of Canada.

I believe with respect to the comments made by the good Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology that some of the polls are shifting in connection with the support for this deal right across the country. I would have to suggest to him that there is still some fundamental misunderstanding as to what this deal contains. I believe that this kind of information quite intentionally has been politically motivated by some parties in an attempt to confuse the electorate as to what is really the substantive essence of what this deal is all about.

I now hear the Premier talking—I just asked the minister to listen carefully to this because I happen to have shared the responsibilities of his portfolio not all that long ago. I understand the responsibilities of that portfolio. I also understand the challenges.

When the Premier stands up and starts talking now about making some arrangements with the United States on a sectoral basis, in other words on a category-by-category basis, in order to reduce tariffs and to ease the two-way flow of trade between the two largest trading nations in the entire world, I would say he is whistling past the graveyard, my friend. The United States has already indicated very clearly, and surely the minister should understand this, that if he defeats this deal, if he is able to be successful in his present course of action in defeating a comprehensive trade deal with the United States of America, there will be no choice. The option will

be no choice, no deal whatsoever being available to him.

Certainly, the United States is not going to come back to him at that time and say that it wants to have an opportunity to discuss the chemical sector, the manufacturing sector, the agricultural sector and so forth through the entire Ontario economy. They have already rejected that as an option. The members opposite should make it very clear in their minds that if they think there is going to be some kind of fallback position that is going in some way to erase all of the problems, errors and omissions that have been created as a result of the rejection of this deal, it is simply not going to happen.

What the United States has indicated is that it wants to have a balanced, comprehensive trade deal, which in effect, based on the judgement of most of the people in this country who have read the document, the 1,300 pages, and have analysed it carefully, have come to the conclusion that this deal is in the best interests of Canadians.

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Let me recite the litany of individuals and groups and organizations that have indicated their support, which should make them think twice about the actions they are taking with respect to this deal.

We have the prestigious C. D. Howe Institute, which has come to the conclusion that there will really be two effects as a result of a trade deal with the United States, one being an increase in the number of jobs to Canadians. They estimate that number at some 250,000 net gain over the normal number of jobs that would be created over the course of the next 10 years. The leader of their federal party has said that is not really of consequence, that is really an infinitesimal number of jobs.

Mr. B. Rae: He said "marginal."

Mr. Brandt: There are 250,000 Canadians who might beg to differ with the member's leader on that point were they to know and understand very clearly that there will be net jobs added to the Ontario and the Canadian economy as a result of this deal over the next—

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: There are over 400,000 in Ontario that are going to be gone.

Mr. Brandt: The 400,000 jobs will not be gone. That is a misleading statement. There are no studies other than the ones that the minister brought in in-house out of his own ministry that indicated a net loss of jobs. The only objective

outside studies that were done indicate that there will be a net gain of jobs.

The C. D. Howe Institute is not a political party. They do not represent this political party or the New Democrats or the Liberals, for that matter, but are trying to bring about an analysis of public policy to indicate whether or not it is in the best interests of Canadians. What they have concluded, in addition to a net gain of jobs, is that there will be a reduction in consumer prices to Canadians.

Those two very important measures that politicians talk about at election time, "Number one, I'm going to create jobs, and number two, I'm going to reduce prices," are the very things the opposition is shoving aside as being of no consequence in this deal. I think they should be ashamed of themselves for doing that, because they have in fact misled the Canadian people, when you take a look at the substantive articles within this particular pact, and I am going to get to them in the amount of time that is available to me.

Let me say that, in addition to the C. D. Howe Institute, you have 8 out of 10 premiers, some of them Liberal premiers like Premier Bourassa in Quebec, who have unequivocally indicated their support for this deal. He has indicated that it is of substantial importance to the people of his province, and some of the other provinces are taking a look at what they consider to be fat cat Ontario and they are saying, "Why are you not giving us the opportunity to trade freely with the United States, as you are doing in the auto pact? Why can't we do that in the energy sector? Why can't we do that—

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: That's a different rule then.

Mr. Brandt: The minister says it is different. Let me tell him how different it is. It is a managed sectoral activity with respect to Canada and the United States. It is no different from reducing the tariffs, removing the impediments to trade as outlined in the trade pact.

Mr. Smith: Exactly the opposite.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: I beg to differ with the member. Eight out of 10 premiers have indicated their support for the deal because they believe very strongly that this deal will benefit this country.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: They are wrong.

Mr. Brandt: The minister says they are wrong. He does not happen to be a Premier at the moment. The fact of the matter is that 8 out of 10

of them have indicated quite clearly that they support the pact.

The Group of Seven industrial countries, the strongest free-market countries in the entire world, when they came here to Toronto to attend the economic summit, indicated their support for the deal and said: "It's a good deal for Canada. It makes you part of a trading bloc, which is no different whatever than other countries in the world are entering into."

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: That's why your polls are 26 per cent.

Mr. Brandt: Let me say to the minister that I am not concerned what the polls are indicating. I am concerned, frankly, about what is best for Canadians. He can read the polls. I will say what I state and what I believe to be in the best interests of Canadians.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: That's why you're the third party.

Mr. Brandt: I would rather be in the third party with principles than a sellout like the minister's party, let me tell him that.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order please. One member at a time, and the member speaking will address his remarks through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Brandt: Oh, that is the way it works around here. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I got somewhat agitated for a moment there.

I want to say that in connection with the seven industrialized nations that came to the conclusion that this was a good deal, are government members really all so naïve as to believe that what is happening in the rest of the world is not going to impact on Canada? Do they really think that what is going on in the European Community or the European common market is not something that is going to affect the minister's trade figures?

Do they really not believe that Australia and New Zealand entering into a trade pact and the proposed trade pacts that are emerging now in the Pacific Rim countries are not in fact slicing up this very small world of ours into economic sectors that are going to have the net effect of keeping some of Canada's and Ontario's exports out of those markets?

Does the government not think that the status quo, just sitting here and allowing all of these things to emerge, as it apparently is at the moment, without entering into some kind of a bond with our strongest trading partner, as other

countries have done, is not in the best economic interests of this province and this country?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: At what price?

Mr. Brandt: The minister says, "At what price?" My friend well knows that 90 per cent of the exports out of this province at the moment go to the United States of America. If those exports start to get shut down or start to slow down as a result of some retaliation for our not entering into this trade pact or not signing the deal, does the member for Lambton (Mr. Smith) realize, when he goes back to his constituents, that fully 30 per cent of all jobs in this province are directly dependent upon exports to the United States?

Members can play that down as being insignificant. I say it is not insignificant, because it relates back to the very piece of misinformation that the Liberal Party has been spreading with respect to a host of social programs and a whole series of other red herrings that it has been putting before the people of Ontario as reasons it is opposing this deal.

Let me cite just some of them. The government has indicated that pensions are at risk. There is no mention whatever about pensions in this trade pact that puts them at risk, and anyone who says otherwise, with respect, is lying to the people of this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: They should stand up and tell me if there is and they should tell me the page. I will give all members of this House the opportunity right now to tell me on what page pensions are being challenged in the trade agreement, because they do not know a page on which the pensions are being challenged. They know full well that there is no challenge to that particular social program.

They know the same thing is true of culture. They know the same thing is true of water export.

Let me take the water issue for a moment, because that is just—

Mr. Smith: You sell your soul. What have you got left?

Mr. Brandt: No. Let me say to the member for Lambton, with respect, I stand here as a proud Canadian concerned about the future of my country and my province, and he is making a very grave and serious mistake taking the attitude that he is.

Mr. Smith: I haven't sold my soul yet.

Mr. Brandt: When a member of the government suggests that I am selling my soul and wraps himself in the Canadian flag, he does both himself and his party a disservice. Again, the

member should be embarrassed at making that kind of remark. I would hope that the level of debate in this House would deal with the specifics of this agreement rather than the kind of negative emotionalism that the member has been trying to sell.

Let me talk about the water articles in the agreement for a moment. The government has been spreading the untruth that in fact Ontario water is for sale, that we want to export it to the United States. For two years, I had the honour and the opportunity to serve as the Minister of the Environment in this province. I attended meetings with the seven Great Lakes states in the USA as well as the two bordering Canadian provinces, Ontario and Quebec. We unanimously agreed that there would be no advantage whatever under any circumstances to the export of water out of the Great Lakes basin to any of the US states that would covet our water. Those were American states as well as Canadian provinces.

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So then when we look in the free trade agreement—I say to the people in the gallery, because I am appealing to the people of Canada and Ontario to read the articles in the agreement with respect to water—do members know what it talks about? Have my friends read it? I should ask for a show of hands. That ought to be embarrassing. I know my colleague from Nipissing has read it. I have no doubts about him whatsoever. But I want to tell members what that particular article talks about is bottled water.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: So when in fact the issue came up at the federal level—

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is "issue."

Mr. Brandt: The Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet has a strange way of pronouncing that word.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That's Mulroney's pronunciation.

Mr. Brandt: When that particular article came up for dispute and for debate in the federal House, the minister quite appropriately, in order to remove any question whatever as to how water would be treated, brought forward an amendment which made it clear that water would not be exported in the context of the free trade agreement. What did this government do? This government said, "We're going to license the export of water."

Why did the government not do what the minister is now saying, now that he realizes he

made a dumb mistake with respect to the legislation that he brought forward? Why did he not say very simply, without any equivocation whatever, that there will be no export of water from Ontario? Why did he not say that?

He would have had the support of the New Democrats, he would have had the support of our party, he would have had total and unanimous agreement in this House that water would not be exported from Ontario. Simple as that. The government could have removed any question of doubt, but that is not what it wanted to do. It wanted to license the export of water and still leave that doubt in people's minds. I think that is rather silly and unnecessary.

In the few minutes that are remaining to me, I doubt very much that I will change one of those paralysed minds opposite in connection with this particular issue. If we think this great country, which we all love so dearly, can exist with our 25 million people without doing business with the rest of the world, we are in fact sadly mistaken.

Mr. Reycraft: Nobody said that.

Mr. Smith: We're not talking about that.

Mr. Brandt: No, the members opposite are not saying that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: What my friends are saying is—

Mr. Brown: You should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Brandt: The Liberal members should listen carefully for a moment. I know comprehension is a problem for those in the back row, but they should listen carefully. What in fact the Liberal government is saying is: "No, we want to trade, but we don't like this deal. This deal gives us some anxieties." Is that not what they are saying? Then the next illogical leap they make in terms of coming to grips with that is, "Well, now we will move to a sectoral agreement." But what about the guys they want to negotiate the sectoral agreement with? It takes two to tango, two to make a deal and two in this particular partnership to arrive at a negotiated settlement between Canada and the United States.

They have already said to the minister, "We don't want any part of your sectoral, piecemeal kind of approach to free trade, to do it on a sector-by-sector basis." They have already rejected that as an option. The government should know full well that it cannot retreat from this position it has entrenched itself in. They are not going to be able to fall back and find some nice, easy option available to them. What they are going to find, in my view, and I hope this does

not come to pass, but let me for the record simply state that there are—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Another alarmist.

Mr. Brandt: Yes, I will be alarmist. If the member can be an alarmist on water, if he can be an alarmist on pensions and on social programs, on Canadian identity and on culture, I will be an alarmist on something that I think is far less extreme and far more probable than anything he has brought up in the context of the trade agreement. I will tell him what it is.

Watch in the days and weeks ahead, if this pact is rejected, what is going to happen with respect to various sectors of the Ontario economy and exports that we want to get into that country. Watch what happens to the very economic foundation of this province; namely, the auto pact. Watch and see if we do not have voices from the United States ask for a renegotiation of that particular document, which happens to be to our advantage at the moment. Watch and see what happens in connection with that prediction, because that is far more likely to come to pass than any attack on pensions or social programs. So I ask members to watch in the days and weeks ahead what is going to happen to the economy of this province.

As I conclude my remarks, let me simply make it clear that my party is going to support the nonconfidence motion because of the unpredictability and because of the total lack of cohesiveness in the approach being taken by the government of the day. Although we might have some modest disagreement with our friends in the opposition in connection with the actual detailed wording of this motion, we will stand up and be counted in opposition to what the government is attempting to do.

Mr. B. Rae: My party and I have been accused of having a political motive for introducing this motion. I plead guilty to the charge for the very simple reason that I have a very profound political motive for introducing this motion, and it really has two aspects to it.

The first is obviously to continue to expose the free trade agreement for what it is, the most profound sellout of this country contemplated in this century by any government elected anywhere in Canada, and to do everything in my power and the power of our party, in Ontario and across the country, to defeat the free trade agreement and to see that it is buried, never to rise again. That is the first purpose.

The second purpose is equally important. That is to expose the nature of the Liberal Party of Ontario and indeed, the Liberal Party of Canada,

and to show the Liberal Party for what it is: at least a four- or five-headed monster that does one thing when in opposition and another thing in government.

I remind the people of this country that in 1974, Pierre Elliott Trudeau said when the issue was wage and price controls, "Vote for me and we'll never introduce wage and price controls." Zap, you are frozen. In 1975, he froze wages right across this country. That was a hypocrisy and a betrayal of historic proportions and I say, as a New Democrat, I not only fear, I know in my heart of hearts the kind of betrayal and the kind of turnaround that the Liberal Party has on its agenda when it comes to this issue of free trade.

I want to say to the Deputy Premier, I can remember seeing him on Channel 11 on CHCH a while ago, well before this was a major issue between anybody, speaking to a small group of business students. He was quoted as saying that on balance, he was a leap-of-faith person, on balance he favoured free trade and he supported the approach of Donald Macdonald and his royal commission when it came to the question of free trade.

I remember watching that and I remember saying to myself, "I wonder what advice the member for Brant-Haldimand is giving to his colleagues in Ottawa? I wonder what kind of advice he is giving to the Premier throughout all these negotiations?"

We have seen not just one Liberal Party, but two or three, but what we have seen is a Liberal Party that has, each and every time it has had the opportunity to do something about free trade in this province, dropped the ball. It has refused to act. It has betrayed its promises and its promises to the people of this province.

They ran an election campaign in 1987 which was a fraud and a hoax, which hoodwinked the people of this province into believing that there was something they could and would do about free trade, when they said after the election: "Wait a minute. We can't do anything about it." We had a government which from 1985 to 1987 said it was going to do something about free trade and did nothing at all about it.

1730

It is quite astonishing, when you look at the contrast. Super Dave went into the ballot on September 10, 1987, saying that he was going to be standing up for us in the free trade talks. He said that we are not prepared to accept any free trade deal under which Canadian policies are dictated by United States interests. He said, "I won't sell you out." He said, "We would refuse

to implement a free trade deal. He said, "I have a veto." He said, "I will exercise my veto." He said, "There is a bottom line and there will be no deal," and he named the famous six conditions. I can remember the six conditions. I can remember his telling reporters: "Oh, there will be more." Then he went to the breweries and said: "No, there are not six. There are seven." That was the Premier prior to the election of September 10, 1987.

Then we had a transformation, the transformation from Superman to Clark Kent, the transformation from Super Dave to Davos Dave. Listen to what Davos Dave said in February 1988 when he was surrounded by his chums from Bay Street, his chums in the big-business community, his pals who had been supporting him and his party to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars, his friends who were invited to Davos with Dave.

What did he say? He said that he would rather renegotiate than tear up the free trade deal. He said that John Turner was a bit of an extremist. Imagine, thinking that John Turner was a bit of an extremist. He said, and I quote: "I would go back and make a better deal," Peterson told the Toronto Sun. "We have taken a ride pretty close to the altar to turn around and walk away."

The real agenda of the Liberal Party is a marriage. All they are talking about now is dickering over the dowry. There is no difference between the Liberals and the Tories over the question of free trade. All they are dickering over is the size of the dowry.

Government members should listen to what he said. He is their guy. He can do no wrong. The Premier was described by the Minister of Energy as being right about whatever he says; so maybe members had better listen to the words.

He said: "I'm not in any position to speak for John Turner (and) I wouldn't presume to give him advice," Peterson said, "(But) I understand how one phrase, or one picture, can characterize a situation that never takes into account all (of) the subtleties." Oh, how we know the subtleties of Liberalism. How we know the subtleties of the Liberal Party of this province. How we know that he says: "No, we are not going to rip it up. We will just maybe rip up one page. Maybe we will just take the cover off and put another cover on."

He said that the price of walking away from the pact would be serious trade retaliation by the Americans. That is what the Premier said in February 1988. He agreed with the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt). He said: that, before things go that far, any new federal government should first try to renegotiate the pact. That is what the

Premier said when he was surrounded by his business friends.

Then we have this remarkable transformation during the election campaign. What do we have? I have what I call my June collage of all the promises that were leaked, for the members, the children over there.

This is the boondoggle of the year. This is the bamboozling of the press gallery. Listen to this.

Our good friend Duncan McMonagle wrote: "In a further bid to challenge the free trade agreement with the United States, Ontario plans to charge more for hydroelectric power and exports."

There is a story by Michael Bennett headlined "Ontario Unveils New Challenge to Free Trade," in which he reported: "The Ontario government introduced a bill yesterday to protect provincial energy supplies in defiance of the free trade deal."

Then we have this one. Get a load of this one. This is the tough talk. "Liberals Ready to Protect Ontario Water," the Toronto Star reports.

Listen to the Windsor Star: "Energy Law Issues Free Trade Challenge." "New Law Challenges Trade Deal." "Peterson Energy Bill Challenges Free Trade Rights." Gordon Sander-son in the London Free Press says: "In a direct challenge to the Canada-US free trade agreement, Ontario intends to put its own and Canada's energy needs first." That is what they said in June.

Look how the tiger has become toothless and turned into an aged, hopeless and senile pussycat because of the legislation that has been produced.

First of all, let's take them in turn. We asked the toothless wonder, the Minister of Energy, today about his Power Corporation Act. Last week my House leader was told by the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), that indeed Bill 168, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act, would be at the very top of the Liberal agenda this week because they wanted to give the House a chance to debate it. What do we find this week? The bill has evaporated. It is gone. It has disappeared.

I am reminded of the little light in Peter Pan. We all remember the little light in Peter Pan that went out. Everybody was wondering what happened to Tinkerbell. Tinkerbell evaporated. It disappeared. It went away. It has gone the way of all flesh—disappeared, gone, never to be seen again, never to be heard from again.

Then we have the terrible tiger, the Minister of Natural Resources. What a tiger. This is the bill that is going to save Ontario's water, I will

remind members. "Ontario to Protect Water from Trade Deal with US." "US Drought Threat to Our Water," Premier says. "Ontario Unveils Tough Bill to Control Vital Resource."

Let's look at the tough bill. Listen to how tough this language is. I want members to get a load of how tough the minister is being:

"The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate, and

"The amount to be paid to the crown for a transfer of water...may be a lump sum, a fixed periodic payment, an amount calculated according to the quantity of water transferred or any combination thereof, and may be made payable on such terms as are prescribed or as the minister determines."

As soon as that bill was exposed, what did the minister say? "I don't know, maybe we'll have to change the bill. Maybe we'll have to reword it." Then when he introduced the bill he said, "This bill is intended to deal with the free trade issue and it is intended to deal explicitly with the export of water to the United States." That is what the minister said when he introduced the bill in June. That is what he told us.

That is what the Premier said. The Premier said we need this bill to deal with the possibility of exports leaving this province for the United States. That is what he said. Now when he stands up in the House he says maybe Manitoba will take some or maybe Quebec will take some. I say to the minister, we do not need this bill to deal with that question. This bill is a fraud, this bill is a hoax, this bill is a joke and this bill, just like the other bills, has gone the way of all flesh.

That is the issue. What is at issue here is the integrity of the Liberal Party, the credibility of the Liberal Party and the nature of the Liberal Party. On this issue of free trade, when it comes to doing what they said they would do, this Liberal Party has no credibility, no integrity, and indeed the Liberal Party of Canada does not deserve to be believed on the issue of free trade, based on our simple experience in this province.

It is an issue of the greatest importance, whom the people of this province can trust when it comes to the question of free trade. It is an issue that obviously has seized hold of the public imagination and will continue to seize hold of the public imagination for the next two and a half weeks prior to the election.

When people say to me, "All you are trying to do, Mr. Rae, is to get involved in the federal

election campaign and all you are trying to do is raise issues that relate to the federal election campaign," I have to say that the future of Canada is at stake. Canadians on November 21 are making probably the most important decision in an election they have made since the turn of the century.

1740

I say to members I am going to do everything in my power to see that the Liberal Party, whether in its Ontario manifestation or its Canadian manifestation, does not receive the support of the people of this province or of this country on this particular issue, because it has betrayed every major commitment it has made on free trade. It is not worthy and does not deserve the support of the people of Canada or Ontario on this issue. It does not deserve it.

That is what this is about. That is what this question is about. I can remember, in 1985, the Premier of the province saying that he was going to be the one who would stop the deal, only it would take a little time. I can remember the Premier of the province saying, when the negotiations were going on: "I don't want to stop these negotiations. I don't want to interfere with these negotiations or impede these negotiations, because they might come up with a good deal. It might be a good deal."

He said: "Trust me, because I have a veto. Trust me, because if it's not a good deal, I can stop it and I can block it." He did not say that once in this House; he said it 50 times. He did not only say it inside the House; he said it outside and on the hustings.

Then in September 1987, he got an enormous mandate, and everybody in this room knows that one of the principal reasons he got that mandate was that the people of this province believed David Peterson when he said he would stop the free trade deal.

I do not mind saying that I said to them he was wrong. I said to the people of the province that was not what would happen. I will be damned if I am going to see that same trend repeated, because it just is not right to give the Liberal Party any kind of a mandate to deal with this question of free trade.

After September, what did he say? After September, the deal came out and he said, "I have to see the full text." Do members remember that?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I remember it.

Mr. B. Rae: He said he had to see the full text. The deal was negotiated in October. He said: "I

can't tell you what I am going to do. I have to wait till I see the full text."

Then he got the full text in December—here it is—and he said: "I can't tell you what I am going to do. I have to wait till I get the legislation." Then he got the legislation and he said, "I can't tell you what I am going to do, because it depends on how the legislation is implemented." That is what he said.

Every step of the way, this is a government which has dropped the ball. Every step of the way, this is a government which has retreated. Every step of the way, this is a government which, with a nudge and a wink, has told the business community: "Don't worry. We're not going to block the deal."

This is a government which has told the Premier of Alberta: "Don't worry. We're not going to block the deal." This is a government which has said: "Don't worry. We will not stop anything." This is a government which has told the people that Mr. Turner should renegotiate the deal, that he should go back to the altar, that he should go a second time and a third time to the altar until he comes up with the right free trade agreement, a free trade agreement that is right for the Liberal Party.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: Now we have some Liberals saying that is right; that is what their agenda really is. I think the people of Canada have a right to know that this Liberal Party is not opposed to a free trade agreement with the United States; it is in favour of a free trade agreement with the United States. What it wants is to have a deal which will be substantially the same as the one which is here and which is going to be renegotiated.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: This is what they say. What they want is a free trade deal with a red cover. That is what they are looking at. If we just get rid of the cover and put some red on it, we will have exactly what the Liberal Party of this province and the Liberal Party of Canada ordered.

I happen to believe that our social services are at stake. I can point to sections 1402 and 1602. I happen to believe that section 2011 of the deal, on nullification and impairment, makes it impossible or virtually very difficult, for Canada to establish new social policies without facing incredible attacks from the insurance industry. I happen to believe that those sections which forbid and prevent Canadians from establishing export prices which are fair, are an absolute

attack on our sovereignty and our capacity to run our own country.

I happen to believe that we did not get the kind of secure access which any country needs to get. I also happen to believe very profoundly that this Liberal Party, which had an opportunity as the leading government of the largest province in Confederation, had an opportunity since 1985 to mould a very different set of national policies than we have seen emerge, whether it is child care, where the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) wrings his hands in this place like Uriah Heep and then goes off and signs a deal with the federal government which will end up cutting back on child care, whether it is a question of skills development, whatever it may be. This government has a dual agenda—sign its sales tax agreement with the federal government, go along with all discussions on the sales tax.

There is no real difference between the Liberals and Tories on those critical questions. We do not have to go far afield to know what is going to happen on taxation under a Liberal Party. All we have to look to is our own experience in this province since September 1987. We know exactly what the Liberals intend to do after November 21, if, God forbid, they should get a mandate.

I went into politics because I believed integrity and straightforward thinking and talking are critical for the future of this country and for the future of this province. I say to the Deputy Premier and to the Liberal Party, they have not served this province or this country well. The New Democratic Party is the one party which has consistently fought this free trade agreement from the very beginning in this province and across the country, and we will not rest until this deal is defeated and a New Democratic Party government is elected right across the country.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wish all members would show some respect for the chair.

By agreement of the House, Mr. Mackenzie, on behalf of Mr. B. Rae, moved:

That the government lacks the confidence of this House because of its abject failure to deliver on its six-point promise during the 1987 election campaign that if certain conditions were not met on the Canada-US free trade negotiations there would be "no deal," even though none of those conditions were met; and because the three so-called anti-free-trade bills now before this House—bills 147, 168, 175—add nothing to the ability of the government of Ontario to resist, oppose or differ from the provisions of the Mulroney trade deal, in the interest of the ordinary working people of the province.

1750

The House divided on Mr. B. Rae's motion which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cureatz, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McCague, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Hošek, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais;

Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Oddie Munro, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Polsinelli, Poole, Ramsay, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson, Wong.

Ayes 24; nays 79.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousins, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, November 9, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, November 9, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent of the House to make a statement about Kristallnacht.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous agreement? Agreed to.

ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would like to inform members of the House that today marks the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass. Fifty years ago, Nazi storm-troopers unleashed a wave of terror that marked the beginning of one of the most tragic episodes in human history—the Holocaust.

On the night of November 9, 1938, scores of synagogues were burnt to the ground, hundreds of Jewish-owned stores were ransacked and vandalized, and thousands of Jewish males were arrested and brutalized in retaliation for the shooting of a German diplomat in Paris.

Symbolically referred to as the Night of Broken Glass because of the shards of shattered store windows that littered the streets of German cities, we commemorate this event to remind ourselves of the senseless slaughter of millions of Jewish citizens.

Racism, hatred and prejudice have no place in a tolerant and just society. Kristallnacht teaches us that we must be eternally vigilant in ensuring that such a tragic and barbaric act never again be inflicted upon any member of the human race.

Ms. Bryden: On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I would like to add my comments to those of the minister, the member for Wilson Heights. Unfortunately, our leader, the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), is out of town today, but I know he would have liked to share in observing in the Legislature the 50th anniversary of the Night of Broken Glass.

This anniversary reminds us of the night of persecution against the Jewish people and it is part of Holocaust Education Week in the city of Toronto, which is being observed by the Toronto Jewish Congress. We join with them in saying that this must never happen again, either nights

of broken glass or the absolute tragedy of the Holocaust.

We think that the Legislature, by observing this commemoration, is sending out a message to the world that we will not tolerate racial discrimination, anti-Semitism and the sort of things that were accepted under the Nazi regime. The western world did not speak up loudly enough to oppose that kind of persecution, that kind of treatment of human beings.

We particularly feel for the Jewish people, who today commemorate a very black day in their history in Germany or in Poland. We suggest that, as members of the Legislature, we convey to the Jewish people our absolute repudiation of the Holocaust and that we also convey to them that we are dedicated to the elimination of any kind of anti-Semitism and any kind of racism in this world. We must seek world brotherhood.

Mr. Cousens: On behalf of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, I would like to join my colleagues from the other parties in rising today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht. One can only imagine the horror that night when Nazi storm troopers rampaged through Jewish communities, shattering the windows of homes and shops and synagogues. In the process, countless lives were shattered too.

The hate propaganda directed against Jewish residents of Nazi-occupied territory is a black mark on human history. The millions who died at the hands of the Nazis must never be forgotten. They will always serve to remind us of the absolute necessity for justice and equality in a civilized society. I know I speak on behalf of all members of this Legislature when I say thank God for those who survived Kristallnacht and the Second World War and the terror of the many other nights under Nazi oppression.

Thousands of those brave people came to our country and settled in Ontario. They have enriched this province and contributed to a tolerant and just society. I knew one of those people, Solomon Benyacar, who died several years ago. He bore the marks of being imprisoned during the war. His only sin was that of being a Jew. He had not done anything against society or against the government, yet he lost his

wife, he lost everything except his humanity and his pride. Fortunately, in coming to this country, he found some of that again.

I am sure all Ontario residents of Jewish descent will spend a few moments today reflecting on that night 50 years ago. They will likely be asking themselves, "Could it ever happen again?" I suppose we can never give definite answers, but we truly must hope and pray that state-sponsored racism will never occur in western democracies like Canada.

However, persecution and oppression take place around the world every day. There are numerous countries where human rights are virtually nonexistent. We must be vigilant in our commitment to promoting human rights and in condemning oppression wherever we see it. The need to take an active role in halting state-sponsored terror is the most obvious lesson arising from Kristallnacht.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL

Mr. Hampton: Yesterday in this House, the government introduced for debate Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water. I really have to ask if the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and the government understand what kind of signal they are putting out.

The fact of the matter is that water transfer schemes on a grand scale have been proposed by the United States for quite some time. In 1963, the NAWAP project, or the North American Water and Power Alliance project, was first put out by an American consulting firm. Then we had the Kierans GRAND Canal proposal.

What was interesting about all of these proposals was that they talked about how much money could be made or they talked about how these things could benefit US farmers. One of the things they did not talk about at all was what might happen to the culture of the Nishnawbe-Aski people whose water would be transferred, or the people of Treaty 3 whose water would be transferred.

I wonder if the government really appreciates the signal it is putting out with this bill, which does not say there will be no water transfers, which does not say these things will not happen, and which can be read very easily by someone from the United States as legislation providing for and enabling the transfer of water. Has the government really thought out what it might be doing and the signal it may be sending out to those people who want the water?

1340

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Yesterday and today, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture presented recommendations to members of the Legislature highlighting the concerns and priorities of its 22,000 members from the farm sector. At these meetings, the organization made several positive suggestions regarding the future of the agricultural industry in Ontario.

These included proposals such as the implementation of a legislated farm organization funding mechanism, the continuation of 100 per cent funding for the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, the development of innovative farm credit mechanisms to deal with long-term financing and the adoption of a comprehensive approach towards waste management. The OFA also requested the strengthening of the Farm Practices Protection Act to ensure our farmers can continue to offer top-quality produce to Ontarians.

The Progressive Conservative caucus looks forward to working with the other parties in this House to achieve the goals of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other farm organizations across this province to preserve and enhance Ontario's agriculture industry.

ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

Mr. Offer: I would like to use my member's statement time to discuss the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

November 9, 1938, has come to be known as Kristallnacht. On this night 50 years ago, Jewish people in Germany and Austria were the victims of Nazi aggression and violence. On this evening 50 years ago, gangs of people roamed the streets throughout Germany and Austria smashing windows and burning synagogues. It was on the following morning that the activities of the night became visible to all—to the men, the women and the children as they went to school.

The streets were littered with broken glass, which gave rise to the name Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. For European Jewry, it was a realization that their country was rejecting them on the basis of their religion. I am told that in the morning, as the children walked the streets, they thought, "Nothing worse can happen to us." We know, as events have shown, how wrong they were. Worse events were to happen.

This week has been designated Holocaust Education Week by the Holocaust remembrance

committee of the Toronto Jewish Congress. The aim of the seminars, workshops and lectures is to ensure that no Ontarian forgets what happened during Kristallnacht and that we learn to create societies in which such bigotry and intolerance can never happen again to anyone anywhere.

AMBULATORY CARE CENTRE

Mr. Mackenzie: What has happened to the St. Joseph's Ambulatory Care Centre in east Hamilton, or Stoney Creek in the Hamilton area? This centre, which the well-respected Dr. Robert Kemp has headed for more than 20 years, trying to promote it, was finally accepted by both the previous government and this government.

One of the conditions of the funding of the major renovations at the Hamilton General Hospital was that we would proceed with the east-end facilities, sometimes known as the east-end hospital or emergency care unit, now St. Joseph's Ambulatory Care Centre.

One of the members in the House has sat on that committee and promoted that for a number of years. Now that we have two Liberal cabinet ministers in this House, the member for Hamilton Centre who is the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro) and the member for Wentworth North who is the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), as well as the member for Wentworth East (Ms. Collins), who was so active on that committee for so many years, why is it that we now have, in the answer to the question I asked back on August 8, the care unit on the back burner again? "Normal planning processes will continue," was the answer of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

Is it because we now have the largest number of Liberal members we have ever had in this House that all of a sudden the commitment that was made to this east-end hospital is not proceeding in the city of Hamilton? Questions are again being asked by the members and by the citizens of east Hamilton as to when we are going to see a start on that particular project, which has been clearly promised to the people. It seems to be delayed more now that we have more supposed clout in the government in power. It is time we started on the east-end ambulatory care centre.

GEORGE BUSH

Mr. Harris: I believe it is appropriate that we take a moment to congratulate George Bush on his election as the 41st President of the United States.

The pundits tell us that Mr. Bush's victory was a vote for continuity, a reaffirmation of the policies of the Reagan era, which produced six years of sustained economic growth and a number of significant foreign policy breakthroughs.

In this country, and in this province in particular, where we depend on the American market for much of our national wealth, we wish Mr. Bush every success in maintaining the health of his nation's economy. In the event that the free trade agreement with the United States is rejected, we trust Mr. Bush will counterbalance any growth in protectionist sentiments that could influence Congress and result in actions hostile to Canadian interests.

I find it ironic that we may have to depend on an American President to save us from ourselves.

We also look to Mr. Bush to take a more positive and active role in resolving the acid rain problem, which has long been an irritant in relations between our two countries.

I know all members of the Ontario Legislature would want to extend their best wishes to Mr. Bush and his family as he assumes the office of President, and I hope sincerely that the good relations between our countries will not be Turnered off.

DIWALI, FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Mr. Velshi: I wish to inform the House that today officially marks the Hindu festival of Diwali. The community has been holding celebrations for the last couple of weeks. In fact, thousands of Ontarians joined with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) this past Sunday for one of those joyous occasions.

Diwali is also known as the Festival of Lights because it is marked by the lighting of lamps to mark the end of the dark month of Ashvina. There is also a custom of leaving a light burning all night long.

This festival is a time for family reunions, good food and the exchange of gifts. Diwali is also a time of thanksgiving, joy and happiness that our Hindu community shares with us all.

I am sure the members want to join me in extending best wishes to all those celebrating the festival of Diwali.

ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

Mr. Wildman: I want to join my colleagues today who have mentioned the Kristallnacht and to say that we should all remember that this was not just a most serious Jewish tragedy, or for that

matter even a German one, but rather a tragedy of all of our societies.

As Canadians, we should remember that after Kristallnacht, European Jewry sought refuge in other nations, particularly in North America and in Canada, and the Canadian government of the time carried on a policy which made it very difficult for many European Jews to emigrate to our country.

I think it is important, as all of us condemn racism and anti-Semitism today, that we recognize that in a sense, a very real sense, Canadians played an unhappy role in the events that followed after Kristallnacht, which was really just the opening of the most terrible period of the Holocaust.

We ourselves should ensure that whenever nations mistreat and use terror against their people and those people seek refuge in our country, we open our doors and welcome them.

MEMBER'S REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: A number of times matters have been raised around Queen's Park reports and the use of Queen's Park reports.

I do not want to make too much of this particular incident. People like myself have been exploitative in this fashion. There is a picture of my nine-month-old daughter on the back of my most recent Queen's Park report and I know that some people's reports are including prominent personages from their communities who just happen to be running in municipal elections and that sort of thing, and I do not have any difficulty with that. But the other day it was brought to our attention in this caucus that delivered to the doors in Downsview was the report of the member for Downsview (Mr. Leone) and included in it, at least in some doors, was this leaflet for Bruno Rea who is running in the municipal election.

We then tried to pursue the matter to discover just how this had occurred and where the fault lay. I must say that yesterday the member for Downsview was helpful in bringing forward the fact that Mr. Rea, the municipal candidate, had in fact paid for a postal walk on his own.

1350

It is no longer possible for us to discern just how this took place. Clearly, if it was just an individual postal worker or, in fact, was a mistake made at the postal station, this is something which is unacceptable.

I would hope that the Speaker might investigate this matter further and that if it is the post office that is at fault here, he will inform it that it

is unacceptable to have a riding report and a political message for an election combined. If it was an individual postal worker who did it, that information must get down to those workers as well.

It is an unfortunate kind of connection, which I am sure the member for Downsview regrets and which all of us here would not want to see happen to us in our own local communities.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to indicate that, in the first instance, I share the honourable member's general concern that that which is mailed in the name of members under the legislative frank ought to concern itself with the affairs of this Legislature and the members in their individual constituency responsibilities.

We have had a number of referrals to you, Mr. Speaker, and I simply want to say in this particular connection that the member for Downsview did raise with me yesterday the concern that had been identified. The member for Downsview was emphatic with me. He said that his householder was sent from the government mail room and in no way was there any effort to entangle it with the literature of a candidate running in the municipal or school board elections.

The member for Downsview further indicated that he had receipts that made that very clear and that any confusion must have occurred in the possible fact that they were mailed from different places but to similar households on the same day.

At any rate, the honourable member is quite prepared to share all of that information with you, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you that, as government House leader, I would be quite happy to have you investigate this and other matters that have been raised by a number of members in this connection.

Mr. Harris: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, we too would very strongly support the investigation by you or by whatever vehicle you deem appropriate. These instances are becoming far too numerous and far too serious, in my view, for us to ignore or to treat as, "Oh, yes, somebody must look at it some time." Our party would also be very supportive of an expedient and thorough review of this matter.

Mr. Speaker: If I might just follow up on the point just raised, after listening to all members who have spoken, I certainly will take this into consideration. Because the Board of Internal Economy approves the newsletters or the sending of newsletters by the members, I will certainly send that immediately to the Board of Internal Economy for review.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. Brandt: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Today the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) and myself received a letter from the Provincial Auditor with respect to an investigation into IDEA Corp., which we have been advised has now been completed. The letter was addressed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter). I would like to request through your office that the report be made available to the opposition parties immediately so that we can review the report in the same time frame as the minister.

Mr. Speaker: That is an interesting point. I do not think the Speaker has any authority. However, I might suggest that we are coming to question period very soon and the member might—

Mr. Harris: On the same point, and I will be brief, what we are dealing with here is not a minister-ordered investigation, it is not an Ontario Provincial Police inquiry, it is not something that they can cover up for two or three years the way they do other things.

It is not a private consulting firm; it is the Provincial Auditor, who works for all members of this assembly and for all parties. In fairness, I think it is a strong point of privilege that when the auditor completes a review like that, it be available to all members of this assembly.

Mr. Brandt: At the same time.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Mr. Speaker, as you know, the auditor sent this report—and I have to tell members, and I am sure they know, that on Wednesday mornings cabinet meets. I was in cabinet all morning. When I got back to the office very, very briefly between cabinet and coming into this House, I saw the report. I have not had a chance to read it. I have no problem with tabling it immediately.

The point I am making is that to make the request that it should have been done, the auditor sent both leaders of the opposition parties notice that he had sent it to me. If he felt it was appropriate that the member should get it, he would have sent it. He sent it to me. I have no problem with tabling it, but I do not want to table it until I have at least had a chance to open it and look at it—

Mr. Harris: And vet it for problems.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Not vet it. I give the member my assurance that I will table it, possibly even today if I can get it over here, but certainly he will have it as soon as possible. I think that is quite eminently reasonable.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, if it is possible to have the attention of the members. Order.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the government House leader in his capacity as the chairman of the cabinet committee on the Temagami crisis.

Could the minister indicate whether the government is prepared to commit itself to agree to the demand of Chief Gary Potts and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai to joint and equal control of logging in the area through the Temagami Forestry Council?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am quite happy to tell the honourable member that the government does not view the matter as a crisis. The whole question is under review and the committee I am chairing is looking at the current situation with a view to accommodating the concerns that have been identified.

Mr. Wildman: In that case, the minister has not really explained whether he will agree to joint and equal control on behalf of the government.

In the short term, though, until Malcolm Rowan reports on the long-term viability of the mill and the wood allocations in the area, is the government prepared to reallocate timber to the William Milne and Sons mill from the licences now held by the mills hundreds of miles from Temagami, in order to keep this mill in operation and to protect the jobs?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The government has given certain commitments it intends to keep. In respect of the supply of timber, those commitments have been indicated by my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

Mr. Wildman: The Minister of Natural Resources has not indicated a willingness to reallocate timber. Would the minister please explain what steps the government is taking to finally settle the Indian land claim and to avoid this whole issue ending up once again in the courts in the new year? Is he prepared to give joint and equal control through the council?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I repeat to my friend that the cabinet committee is reviewing all of the issues. I can assure the honourable member that the government is very anxious to resolve this situation in a satisfactory fashion, and I will certainly be quite pleased to keep the honourable member and the House informed of progress in this connection.

DEFECTS IN NEW HOMES

Mr. Breagh: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Can the minister explain how it is that now literally hundreds of homes have been built in Brampton, Mississauga, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham with substandard steel beams? How did that one defect go through our entire municipal and provincial process? Why did three ministries deny their responsibility for enforcing the building code?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I do not have the full answer to the question the member has asked, but I would like to look into that and I will certainly report back to him on that particular issue.

Interjections.

Mr. Breagh: I keep hearing from the extreme rump over here that this is the fault of some local building inspector.

The minister will know that three ministries of the crown and the Ontario Provincial Police were all made aware that substandard iron was used in this structural problem. His ministry is aware and his building inspectors are aware that there was a problem identified earlier this summer, that it affects the construction now of literally thousands of homes in those municipalities. Absolutely no one has been prepared to investigate, save and except a local building inspector in one of the municipalities.

Why is it that, when the ministers are informed that there is a severe problem of a structural nature in the construction of new homes, which cannot be identified once the framing is completed, they continue to ignore all of that? Is there no one in any one of the three ministries and the Ontario Provincial Police who is prepared to investigate a problem that apparently escapes all of them?

1400

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Our ministry provides a broad framework for the planning in these particular areas, and I might say that if there is a problem with the construction of homes I am sure that there is a municipal responsibility there. If the member would give me the specific reference, I will certainly look into that and he will hear back from me.

Mr. Breagh: I do not intend to pay for his subscription to the Globe and Mail. I think he can afford to do that on his own. The Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations were all made aware that there was a problem, as was the OPP. Now people who have

bought these homes will probably have to wait a year or so until the walls have problems with them, as do the floors, and a severe structural problem occurs. Who will bear the financial responsibility for this fault of government? It is obvious now that the home warranty program will not guarantee the use of structural steel that was substandard.

It is clear that the ministries were made aware that there were substandard building materials used and they did nothing about it. Will the ministries now assume the financial responsibility for problems that emerge in these brand-new homes when that is brought to their attention?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I will be pleased to look into the charge that the honourable member has made, and I will certainly report back to him on my findings.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the same minister, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, on a different topic. Later on today, as the minister is aware, we will be undertaking an emergency debate with respect to some of the allegations and improprieties that have supposedly been undertaken in the northern part of Toronto, in the region of York.

I would like to suggest to the minister that there are problems apparently surfacing not only in York region but also in other parts of Ontario as well, and that all of these problems are not just simply Metropolitan Toronto problems.

I would call to the minister's attention that in the community of Belleville, the ministry undertook a five-month review in that particular area to investigate allegations of conflict of interest against the mayor, among others, and upon completion of that report, one of the findings that came out of it is, according to his ministry, and I quote: "We did not look into conflicts of interest."

Since the key issue surrounding the Belleville situation was a conflict-of-interest matter, can the minister indicate to the House why his report did not cover conflict of interest in this review?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We are looking into the comments that were made by the petitioners in the city of Belleville. We had an independent consultant look into that, along with the people in our ministry. We have reported on it. That report is available, and I am sure the member has seen it. However, the conflict of interest is a separate opportunity for those people. If they have found a

criminal charge, they can make that charge and that will be reviewed by the proper authorities.

Mr. Brandt: That is the whole problem with the process that the minister has undertaken. He has taken a very cursory review of the matter without digging into the substantive issues surrounding this particular case. It was alleged that the mayor of Belleville acted improperly, as the minister is aware. There is one specific incident wherein he attempted to purchase a piece of land owned by the province on three different occasions, when it was publicly known that that particular property was wanted by the community of Belleville for a park, as I understand it. The report goes on to state that if there are any improprieties, any conflicts of interest, these would have to be determined by the courts, as the minister has just indicated.

I would like to ask the minister: Has he, in fact, referred this matter in any way, by way of the responsibilities of his ministry, to the courts? Or has he at the very least discussed it with his front-bench colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) to determine whether or not this is an actionable case that deserves his attention and the attention of the legal department of the provincial government?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: It is clearly laid out in the present act how you deal with conflict of interest. I am going to say to the honourable member that I am not really satisfied with the conflict of interest act as it already exists. That is why my ministry for some time now, before this was ever discussed publicly, has been looking into strengthening the conflict of interest act. We will be reporting on that very soon indeed.

Mr. Brandt: Shortly we are going to have municipal elections in this province, as the minister is aware. There have been allegations of conflict in York region here in the Metropolitan Toronto area. Other parts of Ontario have had suggestions of improprieties and activities that are inappropriately being carried on by relationships between developers and elected officials.

In order to clear the air on this and to give the public the sense of confidence that I think it truly deserves and needs with respect to this upcoming election and the officials it is going to place in public office very shortly, will the minister petition the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to call a public inquiry into this entire matter, specifically centring on York region, so that the people of this province can have confidence in their municipal officials again?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I think the Attorney General has handled the question very well and

has discussed the commission of inquiry versus an Ontario Provincial Police investigation.

I want to say to the member that he should give us credit for the action that we have taken. Within a couple of months after I became minister, we introduced Bill 106, which is going to give greater credibility, greater importance to municipal government in this province, something that was never there before. There will be greater accountability in contributions and expenses and there is going to be a reporting system for those who contribute to municipal politicians. One can go to the clerk's office and see who reported. That was not there before. We have taken some very clear steps to give greater accountability, greater importance to municipal government in this province. The member should give us credit for that.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Premier. Several years ago serious allegations were made concerning a number of mysterious infant deaths at the Hospital for Sick Children. In order to respond to the need for a public inquiry, the provincial government established the Grange commission, which, upon its conclusion, helped to restore public confidence in the hospital.

The confidence of the people of Ontario is now shaken by the serious allegations being made about the planning processes in the province. I realize there are two major differences here when we are talking about children's deaths and the planning process, but the government responded at that time to the serious concern about confidence in the hospital. I am now raising the whole question of the confidence the people in York region and around the province have about this important issue that has been raised through recent articles.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: Therefore, I ask the Premier whether he is prepared today to finally establish a public inquiry to investigate the municipal planning process across the province, with specific reference to south York region.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me say to the honourable member that I understand his point of view. I say as respectfully as I can that I do not think his analogy with the inquiry into the Hospital for Sick Children and the mysterious deaths of a number of small children is appropriate at all in the circumstances. I say that as respectfully as I possibly can.

We have discussed this matter in this House on a number of occasions. The member's leader has just asked my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) for his view on the situation. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has discussed it as well.

I just want to repeat to my honourable friend that we have all read those articles. We are aware of some of the allegations, some more or less direct, some more or less veiled. The member and I both understand that. Obviously, that gives rise to some concerns. That is why the OPP has been instructed to look at this in all of its aspects with respect to any criminality involved therein. That does not preclude any other investigation that should be necessary in the circumstances. It does not preclude the minister from looking into the planning processes in the various acts, and he is doing that in the ministry at the present time.

I assure my honourable friend that we have absolutely nothing to hide. We want all the evidence to come out. We want to make sure that if allegations that are incorrect have been made, that comes out. We think the police are the proper independent body to do that.

1410

When the investigation is over, should we come to the conclusion collectively that it is not adequate, I assure my honourable friend that we will deal with it in an appropriate and open way. I think the honourable the Attorney General has explained to the House the problems under the charter of going one way as opposed to the other way. Our judgement and the judgement of the law officers of the crown is that the most judicious, the most fair and the most expeditious way to go is the way the government has chosen to do.

Mr. Cousens: I thank the Premier for his answer. In relating the York regional concerns with the Hospital for Sick Children situation, the one thing that we have in common with both is the lack of confidence that developed through the incidents at the Sick Kids' hospital and the increasing lack of confidence now by the people of York region. To me, when the government wanted to respond to that, that is when the government said, "We will have an official inquiry into it." The last big one that was done was the Grange commission. There is a precedent for it happening while there is also a police investigation under way.

Last year, around November 25, the municipalities of Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill unanimously asked the government to review the system in York region. Each council

sent to the Premier as well as to the Minister of Municipal Affairs a resolution which represented the views of 225,000 people asking for a formal review and restructuring of the political, administrative and financial framework of the regional municipality of York. Instead of responding to that request with any action—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: —the government has established three commissions: one looking at Niagara, which has little growth; one looking at Haldimand—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: —which is rural; and one looking at Ottawa, which is an urban community, but nothing to be done with York region.

Mr. Speaker: Would the member place the supplementary?

Mr. Cousens: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Premier act now to respond to the shattered confidence which the people of Ontario have in the municipal planning process?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We discussed the analogy with the Grange commission. As I said, I was uncomfortable with that parallel that the honourable member drew, but let me just say that in procedural terms there is a parallel because he will recall in those circumstances there was a criminal charge laid and there was an acquittal, as I understand it, at the preliminary inquiry stage. In other words, the criminal process ran through before there was a general investigation into that.

That was the choice of the then Attorney General, Mr. McMurtry, who I think understood the same arguments that the present Attorney General understands. My guess is that if the member asked the former Attorney General or the chief law officer of the crown, he would be very comfortable with the process that we have adopted in these circumstances.

Mr. Cousens: It is a sensitive subject. Indeed, one would not want to have a commission in operation during the police investigation if they came up and started placing charges. During the Grange commission, it was agreed by Mr. McMurtry at the time that the commission would cease if criminal charges were laid.

What we are talking about here is a sense of how we approach the problem of addressing the concerns of the people of York region and the people of the province, because it goes far beyond south York region. It goes to the very crux of what the municipal planning process is all about. How can we as legislators respond to the

concerns of the people? In the meantime, we have a comment from the Minister of Municipal Affairs who said—

Mr. Speaker: You have already asked two questions.

Mr. Cousens: I am moving—

Mr. Speaker: Order. No.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: No. With respect, you have placed two questions.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The same answer, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea what the question was, but I assume, operating on the premise that it was the same question that was asked a little earlier—but it may not have been. I have to plead with the Speaker to assist me in this matter because I am answering a question and I have no idea what the question is. You could say that is not atypical of what happens regularly in this House.

I do say to my honourable friend that the minister is reviewing the Planning Act and the processes. We have looked at a number of regional governments in the past. We are prepared to extend that. We have brought about major changes in the structure in a variety of areas. Certainly we have no problem looking at our processes, looking at our governmental structures, making them more adaptable as the things change and improving a situation. If my honourable friend has advice in that regard, then I can assure him it is extremely welcome to the government.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY CROWN EMPLOYEES

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Attorney General. I want to bring to his attention what I consider to be a serious human rights case and ask his opinion on it.

Marilyn Youden works for the Ministry of Government Services as an inquiry officer. She is also the president of the University City Community Association. She was approached by a municipal candidate for endorsement and assistance in her campaign. Knowing that she did not have this right as an Ontario public servant, she reluctantly declined. However, in the past, other members of that same board of the association who are school board employees were able to provide endorsement and campaign assistance to municipal and federal candidates.

Does the Attorney General feel that kind of discrimination against public servants is continually justified three years after his government

promised to end this kind of discrimination? Why does he not bring in legislation to end this kind of discrimination against public servants?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am not familiar with the case and, as my honourable friend knows, it would be very foolish to make a comment on it until I find out what the facts are. I will be glad to look into it for the honourable member and report to him.

Mr. Philip: What the minister is aware of, I am sure, judging from his answer yesterday, is that the representatives of the public servants made a notice of motion in court on August 12, 1987, more than two years after the government had made a commitment in the accord to broaden the political rights of the public service and, indeed, one year after he had identified himself with the Ontario Law Reform Commission, which asked for a broadening of those rights.

Why does he not stop the wasting of taxpayers' money on legal services and, indeed, the cost to the public servants in legal fees, and introduce the legislation now so that the court cases are no longer necessary, and give public servants the same rights as every other citizen in this province?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member has not got the facts right. The reality is that the federal public—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Well, if he wants to hear them.

The reality is that the federal public servants applied in the Federal Court of Canada to quash the federal Public Service Employment Act and they won. At that point in time, we had been meeting with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union from time to time to discuss what the situation was in Ontario. Fired up by the successful result that their federal counterparts had obtained, they decided to commence proceedings.

It was not we who decided to proceed to commence them. They did. We indicated that if they would wait, we would be prepared to discuss either interim or perhaps more permanent arrangements with them. They thought they were going to win so they were all gung-ho to go right ahead, which is their perfect right to do. We agreed that if that was what they wanted to do we would co-operate with them so that the case would come on.

The bad news, from their point of view, of course, is that the case was lost by them and our Divisional Court concluded that the Public

Service Act was entirely appropriate and did not breach any Charter of Rights and Freedoms entitlements. They are now appealing.

The government is anxious to get the views of the court on this matter so we will have some sense of what the ambitions of our power are, if any, under the charter. The public service union says we have no power under the charter. The court has rejected that and we look forward to hearing what, upon the union's application, the Court of Appeal has to say about it.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Philip: I don't know why you want to mislead the Legislature like that. That is simply not true.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Take another vacation, Ed.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will ask the member to withdraw his remark.

Mr. Philip: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I will withdraw it. Unfortunately, the Attorney General has driven so quickly—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order.

1420

MEMBERS' ABSENCES

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: That happens to be two days in a row that the Attorney General has made a comment—Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you hear me out—that a member of the Legislature was on vacation when in fact he and a member of the Liberal caucus and a member of the Conservative caucus were travelling on legislative business that happened to coincide when the House was in session. I think if the Attorney General had any sense of decency at all, he would stop making the comment and he would stand in the House and apologize.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I believed that the honourable member was on vacation in Australia. If he was not, I of course withdraw the remark without the slightest reservation. If he was doing legislative work in, of all places, Australia with our colleagues, I am delighted to hear it and I withdraw.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to remind the members this is question period.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order—is that what you are recognizing me for?

Mr. Speaker: I was really recognizing the

member for a new question. I felt it was probably the right thing to do. However, on a question of—

Mr. Harris: Privilege or order, whatever the others were.

Mr. Speaker: Which is the member rising on?

Mr. Harris: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the same point: I think what we have heard the Attorney General say to us here today, that he has absolutely no idea what the committees and the members of this House are doing outside of his own little area of the Attorney General, if that is what he is saying, is a pretty disgraceful statement to make.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Harris: I have a question concerning housing in Australia—no, it is not housing in Australia. I have a question for the Minister of Housing, a matter to which I know the minister has devoted a great deal of her time since taking on the Housing portfolio. Very simply, can the minister tell us why, specifically, the existing system of rent review is not working?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am actually very pleased to be able to tell the member that, despite the fact that we have a complex and difficult system of rent review, in fact it is working.

One of the things I am glad to say is that over the past few months the work of the ministry, the very able and determined work of the ministry, with our new resources and with more computerization, has been working very actively to reduce our backlog and it has now been reduced from nearly 26,000 applications to, at the end of September, 21,000 applications.

I think our system works. I am very pleased that the tenants of this province are protected against unjustified rent increases and I think we have turned the corner.

Mr. Harris: I am very surprised to hear the minister stand in her place and say the existing rent review legislation in place is working. Section 83 from the 1986 bill still cannot be proclaimed because her ministry says the backlog of cases is too large for that requirement of the legislation to be implemented.

Virtually everyone in this province—the landlords; the developers; the tenants; just about every member of this House save one, whom we just heard stand in her place and say she thinks it is working; the media—I do not think there is anybody in this province other than the minister who thinks that legislation is working.

Interjections.

Mr. Harris: Even the Toronto Star says it is not working.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Harris: We are all interested in helping. We are trying to find solutions. But unless the minister will admit to us that it is not working, it is difficult for everybody to come up with a solution. All groups want a better system; they want something in place that will work.

I would ask the minister what parts of the legislation are not working, as everybody but her says they are not working, and if she wants to say they are working, perhaps what parts are causing the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I have said in this House many times that we are dealing with a very complex piece of legislation and that is one of the reasons our backlog has been as high as it is. It is a piece of legislation that was drafted in a unique way to deal with the concerns of the tenant community and also the concerns of the people who own apartment buildings and the concerns of the province.

I do not say the law is perfect. It is not. The member asked me if it was working. It is indeed working. We are getting results. We believe that those results are moving well through the system. I would be happier if it were faster; I would be happier if it were simpler. But I believe that with very significant resources and commitment on the part of this ministry we are turning the corner and resolving the rent review applications that we have before us.

MEETING OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. I understand that the minister recently took part in the annual conference of the provincial ministers of culture. I am sure there are many areas where an exchange of views and ideas with other provinces and territories is most fruitful in the area of culture and communications. May I ask the minister whether she can tell us what the main agenda items were of this conference and also whether there have been any significant conclusions that will influence the work of her ministry and our government over the next year.

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: The annual meeting of ministers of culture took place about a month ago, with the Honourable Lise Bacon taking the chair. After a very fruitful day of discussion, every minister concluded that we would like to

strengthen by deed and by word the interministerial co-operation involving not only provinces but territories.

There were many suggestions given, obviously, but several areas emerged as priorities: first of all, that we look at ensuring that native culture assumes a priority; second, that we take a look at the multicultural diversity of the entire country and share that information; third, that we look at cultural resources as being a tourism instrument, sharing people places with each other, and fourth, that we believe economic development can only succeed if we have a very strong cultural development strategy. In that light, we made a very significant statement on international development, especially since this is the World Decade for Cultural Development as declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. Daigeler: I find this information very interesting and I look forward to the progress that will be made in these areas the minister has identified.

I understand there also was some discussion on the 20th anniversary of the Ontario-Quebec Commission for Co-operation. She may know that last February I moved a private member's motion on this matter. Given the fact that there was great interest on the part of the House in this, I would like to ask the minister whether there are any special plans to celebrate this event next year and, if so, what they are.

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I am very pleased in the member's interest in the Ontario-Quebec Commission for Co-operation. As he may or may not know, this minister is responsible for the cultural events which we will be celebrating in the 20th anniversary. Initially, Quebec and we as a province have agreed that we will take initiatives in the visual and performing arts, but we are already also exchanging information on shared library services and information. In addition, the Honourable Lise Bacon, for example, will be coming to Toronto in November to attend with me a performance of The Bourgeois Gentleman being put on by the Canadian Stage Company.

As the member is aware, both Quebec and Ontario make a very strong presence every year in their film festivals, one usually being held in Montreal and one being held in Toronto.

I can say that I will keep my colleague informed and will certainly involve him.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of Housing. The minister has often told the House of her intention to ensure that municipalities' official plans provide for at least 25 per cent of affordable housing.

I want to tell the minister about a project in my riding by Rylar Developments that calls for 440 apartments and town houses. The city of Etobicoke approved the official plan last June. It has not yet been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, but despite that, the city has approved the zoning bylaw, the city has approved the site plans, the city has allowed demolition of the existing structures. All that is missing is the building permit.

When a project is allowed to get that far through the approval process, how can the minister realistically think that she is going to have any influence on the official plan?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is exactly the kind of issue that the member raises that led us to put forward our land use policy and our housing policy in August. What we are trying to do there is to tell all municipalities, especially in the regions where the pressures are very great—and this, of course, is one of those municipalities—that they must, in their official plans, designate areas and designate methods for making sure they reach our goal, which I think is shared in this House, of making sure that when new building happens, 25 per cent of that building is targeted for people who have needs for housing, low- and moderate-income people, that that housing is affordable.

We have not said that the only way to reach that is on a project-by-project basis. We have said that in municipal neighbourhoods, for example, designated by the municipalities, the municipality has to show the way in which it will make sure, through its official plan and through the other processes that the member has described, that the goal of 25 per cent of the housing being built being affordable will be met.

The project the member is describing, if I have the dates right, in fact preceded our announcement to the municipalities about the land use policy. That does not mean we are not taking very seriously exactly that goal and ways to meet it, but I should say that we do not assume that the only way to meet the goal is on a project-by-project basis.

We want municipalities to tell us what methods they are going to use to meet the goal, because the goal is there and we are committed to it. We believe that one of the ways that will work

is for municipalities to designate neighbourhoods within—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary?

Mrs. Grier: That certainly is a policy that is more full of loopholes than it is going to be full of any affordable housing units. Does the minister not realize that in an area like Metropolitan Toronto or an older area like mine, we are going to be dealing with official plans on a project-by-project basis because all the existing land is already covered by something?

The project that I raise today is a commercial property that is being allowed, if the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) approves the official plan, to go to luxury housing. You can get a one-bedroom suite for \$282,000 and you can get a two-bedroom town house for \$1.2 million. Where is there any room for affordable housing if obsolete commercial uses are going to be allowed to revert to residential on that kind of basis?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Let me thank the member for bringing this case to my attention because I am, in fact, actively looking at the cases that come forward. One of the things we hope to be able to do with our land use policy as the approach that we have taken is that even when there is commercial building or there is mixed use of the sort that the member is describing, the affordable housing goals will be met, and I am prepared to look at this particular case as well, as the member brings it up.

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Solicitor General. As the honourable minister is aware, there are some 21 municipalities in Ontario that have no firefighting equipment whatsoever. In the case of a fire, residents of these municipalities have to rely upon bigger centres to come to their aid.

Because most of these smaller municipalities are located in rural and northern areas of the province—I have eight of them in Parry Sound riding—it means that emergency firefighting crews may be coming from many miles away.

For some period of time, residents of these smaller municipalities have asked the minister for funds to purchase firefighting equipment. Her answer has always been no. May I ask the honourable minister again today if she is still refusing to protect the residents of these municipalities from fire?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As the member well knows, the fundamental responsibility for firefighting lies with the municipal governments.

However, I am very happy to report to the member that we are taking a major thrust now in fire prevention because we believe that in the northern communities—and facts have proved this—fire prevention indeed is the only way to prevent loss of life, and this is our fundamental thrust.

Mr. Eves: I am afraid the minister's answer is simply not good enough. The leader of our party met with some of the people who live in these municipalities this summer. They told him they are tired of being treated like second-class citizens in Ontario. One of the reeves, Kevin Hall, is quoted as saying, "At our meeting with Mrs. Smith in March, she, the Solicitor General of Ontario, suggested that if the residents of poor townships did not like the level of service they received there, they should consider moving elsewhere." What kind of response is that from the minister to a very serious problem of residents in Ontario and when is she going to clean up her act and do something about it?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am very happy to report that that meeting was very well received by all the people involved, with the exception of the one person who made this report at a much later and more political time. On the other hand, the people who were there were very content with my response. We worked with them to provide services to them and training, a particular plan for their area which was put into effect and which they appreciated our responding to.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. South: I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. Many people in my riding believe that the schools of Ontario should be funded through income tax rather than property tax. They believe that funding through property tax is unfair because it has no bearing on the ability of the property owner to pay. Could the minister tell the House if there are any plans under way to shift school funding from property tax to personal tax in an attempt to provide a more equitable system of payment to the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As I am sure members of the House are aware, the whole issue of the funding of elementary and secondary education in this province is under review. Some time ago the work of the Macdonald commission was completed and its recommendations were put forward. My ministry is actively reviewing those recommendations and considering other options. However, I do want to point out to the member a fundamental reality in the way education is

delivered in this province: that is, that it is a shared responsibility between Ontario and local government. To that end, I do believe that funding on a shared basis is also appropriate.

Mr. South: Because of the great imbalance in the commercial and industrial assessment throughout the province, many of the people in the north part of my riding are facing extremely high education taxes now. I am wondering, then, if the minister has this as a high priority.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The way grants are allocated by the province to school boards does take into account that there may be great variances in the local wealth that can be generated through commercial and industrial assessment. As a result, the grant regulations that apply to each board throughout this province are designed to create a level playing field for each and every municipality on the basis of its own particular resource base.

1440

COURT FACILITIES

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Attorney General. Two weeks ago I asked the Attorney General a question about his announcement of the renovations to the Hamilton provincial court facility. In his initial response he suggested that he felt it was an adequate proposal in the short term, but in his supplementary response he indicated he understood that it still did not satisfy the long-term needs and that Hamilton would not be losing its place on that list. In a subsequent discussion we had, he indicated that, basically, the present proposal was as it is because that is all the money there is at present.

Since that time, the Attorney General has no doubt received resolutions from both city council and regional council. Local interested parties have been negotiating or discussing the situation with a number of different perspectives in mind, including Canada Post. It is our understanding that, in fact, there are much better facilities available for the same number of dollars he is proposing to spend over the next 20 years. Presuming that he wishes to best utilize the money he has now, will he take the time to sit down with those in Hamilton who have been having discussions and in fact see whether there is a potential, with the same dollars, to do something better?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am very grateful for the question and I understand well how this member and the other members from the Hamilton region are very concerned about this problem.

One of the problems with the alternatives we have been looking at for some years is that, even in the case of the post office, it is not going to provide any significant relief for the provincial court (criminal division) until probably 1995 or 1996 at the earliest.

The post office building—assuming it was a viable option in every other respect, and I think it is not—will not be available for four or five years and will require, even if funds were available, the most extensive renovations to the two first floors. The third and fourth floors will probably be unusable, because the ceilings are too low.

So what we have in Hamilton is an immediate need. The premises that are there at present are completely inadequate in terms of dimension and in terms of their layout. The need must be resolved now. We frankly cannot wait until 1995.

The assurance I have given the honourable member and others who are concerned is that by following through with our existing priority list, as we hope to do, Hamilton will not lose its place on the supplementary priority list, which we will be reviewing again in two or three years, and on which a major project for a unified court is listed as one of the possibilities.

Mr. Charlton: We understand that none of the things being discussed at the present time will be absolute in terms of the long-term solutions.

On the other hand, those interested parties in Hamilton who have been concerned about the present facilities are prepared to see very minor revisions to the existing facility in the interim in order to get into better facilities sooner.

The Attorney General seems to forget that his proposal to add two courtrooms at the Main Street facility also includes the closing of three existing courtrooms outside of that facility—two on Hunter Street and one on Jay Street—at the end of their current leases. So either way we go, we are in the same bind in the short run. Neither of the proposals resolves that part of it.

All I am asking is, will the Attorney General just sit down and confirm that there has not been a change in status that might provide a better avenue?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I have been meeting for over a year—actually, a year and a half, probably two years; my first trip to Hamilton, when I looked at all the available options, was over two years ago. I have continued to meet with representatives of the various users through our consultation process, which led to the priority list upon which this is listed as project number two or three; I have forgotten which. I have met with represen-

tatives from Hamilton as recently as two weeks ago, and I am prepared to meet again.

The reality is that a decision to act has to be taken, and indeed, my friend's party presses us from time to time to stop consulting and start acting. That is what we are doing. What we face here is that in the provincial court (criminal division), the busiest court in the province and the busiest court in Hamilton by far, we have no young offenders' facilities. We are short of courtrooms. We have them in three buildings, as my honourable friend notes, so people have to run back and forth at great expense and waste of time, and we have a building facility that is really quite inadequate to the purpose.

With the payment of \$700,000 and a commercial rent, we can solve all those problems. It is a deal that, in the interests of users and the judges and everybody involved, I believe we have to take.

FUNDING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. I wonder if the minister is aware of the problems that are happening out in the public libraries as a result of her ministry not transferring the provincial funds to run those libraries until six months into the year, causing many of those small libraries to have to go out and borrow money and pay interest on that money until the grant comes through.

It used to be customary when we were the government that we put that out in May and June. It has been constantly sliding further and further ahead until this year it was August and late September when many of them got their grants.

Would the minister check into this and make sure that for the upcoming year this situation is changed around and those people do not have to go out and borrow the money and pay interest on it? They do not get enough as it is to carry out the valuable work that they are doing.

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: Yes, I am very much aware of the hardships that are placed on municipalities, particularly on smaller ones, by the transfer payments. But I think in our discussion we have been able at least to put forward the case that the transfer payments in many ways have at least not diminished in any way. What we have to do every year is to make sure that our representations to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) underline this kind of problem. I just have to assure my honourable colleague that we will continue to work with the municipalities to make sure that does benefit the

smaller libraries and, indeed, also the larger libraries.

Mr. Wiseman: I wonder if the minister would consider sending half of their allotment to them as soon into the new year as possible. While she is at it, and I hope she will get the grants out more quickly next year, would she look into the furnishing, equipment and video grants, because they are even worse? They are taking eight to 10 months to be approved, and many of the libraries just cannot plan their activities and their work if the year is almost used up in which they ask for these grants. Would she check into that as well?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I will, of course, take the member's suggestion to our officials. On the issue of video grants, one of the problems we are facing with many of our library grants is that they are simply too popular and so we have a bit of juggling to do. In addition, the library boards themselves in both the north and the south have to make certain decisions as to which libraries can be a repository for video collections.

All I can say is that the programs, the grants, seem to work. We obviously will keep the program category open and will try our best to make sure that the lead time is shortened considerably between the time of an application, the decision on which libraries get the grant and the receipt of the money.

PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Elliot: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. He answered a question on Monday for me in which he showed himself to be very knowledgeable with respect to a proposed landfill site in the Acton quarry. I would like to ask him a further question with respect to this particular proposal.

I will fill him in on a little bit of the background. The proposal has already been rejected for such a purpose at least twice. Once in 1973 a Guard group successfully turned back such a proposal, and when the region started its current process for coming up with an acceptable landfill site, it was one of the first locations that was rejected.

My question is, how many times does the municipality have to go to the expense of having such a site rejected?

1450

Mr. Pope: That is a one-word answer.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member for Cochran South (Mr. Pope) says a one-word answer would suffice on this, but I know the member would certainly want more than that.

I know this is a matter of great concern to people who live in the area. The mayor has for some time expressed his point of view in opposition to this. Again today at the Ontario Legislature, a group was here expressing in the very strongest of terms its opposition to it.

In Ontario, people have the freedom and right to make proposals to government for various initiatives including waste management initiatives. The difference today, a very proactive stance on our part, is that since our government came to office, we have now put under the Environmental Assessment Act even the private sector proposals for landfills of the kind that has been proposed in Acton. For that reason, it is a much more stringent regime that any proponent has to go through.

The member indicates that on two occasions this has been turned down, and that was not even going through this tough proposal regime we have at the present time, the Environmental Assessment Act. I want to assure the member that the proponents know they must go through the act. They have been told for some time now. They are proceeding as though they are following the act. There will be an actual regulation that is put into effect for each one of these—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That seems like a fairly complete answer.

Mr. Elliot: I thank the minister very much for the detail of that answer.

My supplementary has to do with the fact that the location sits on the edge of an aquifer that is reputed by the experts to cover some 3,000 square miles. The water source feeds into both Sixteen Mile Creek and the Credit River. Does it make any sense at all to dump garbage in such a location?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is a determination the Environmental Assessment Board will have to make when it makes its final judgement, if indeed it goes that far. What they have to do is go through the environmental assessment process first. Before you even get to a hearing, this is reviewed in detail by officials of the environmental assessment branch, the waste management branch and other branches of the Ministry of the Environment, to look into all environmental aspects.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Natural Resources, probably the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and a number of other ministries must comment upon this. They do so in a very critical sense. They put it through the very toughest of scrutiny. Every one of those considerations,

including archaeological findings in the area, including cultural—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Attorney General. In August of this year, a district court ruled that under section 107 of the Landlord and Tenant Act, a landlord can secure vacant possession of his building and evict his tenants merely by listing the property for sale and serving an eviction notice, whether or not the property is eventually sold. This ruling removes tenant security for the 400,000 tenant families who live in rental properties with four units or less. Because these buildings are not covered by the rent registry provisions, it opens them up to substantial illegal rent increases.

Will his ministry apply for intervenor status on the appeal of this case to assist with the arguments necessary to have this anti-tenant ruling replaced? Will the Ministry of the Attorney General assist in this case?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I assume from my honourable friend's important question that the dispute involved is a private one between landlord and tenant and that is why he asks me whether we would intervene.

I am not certain about the nature of the case. It has not as yet been brought to my attention and I do not know the extent to which we are empowered under our statute to intervene in a private dispute. However, if the honourable member will permit, I will be glad to look at the matter and provide an answer to him as quickly as I can.

Mr. Hampton: It would seem that it is not only a private matter in a sense, but that it is also an important matter of public policy, since the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) tells us every day that she wants to protect the rights of tenants and that she wants to do something about the housing shortage.

Let me ask the minister this then: If the minister is uncertain as to whether or not he can intervene, can he say that the government will immediately amend the Landlord and Tenant Act to restore security of tenure for these tenants? In other words, if he is uncertain as to his capacity to intervene, will he amend the act to make it clear that this loophole should not be available?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not think there is any difference between my honourable friend and me in the importance with which we treat issues of this type. I am very anxious to ensure that there

are no inappropriate loopholes in the Landlord and Tenant Act or indeed any other legislation for which I am responsible.

What I am simply saying—I know it offends the question period rules, where everybody is supposed to know everything about everything—is that I just do not have the details of this case. If my honourable friend will permit, I will look into it and see what the situation is and what the answer is.

Mr. Hampton: Do you not have the facts?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member asks me if I do not have the facts, and I do not have the facts.

Mr. Speaker: I did not request the honourable member to ask a further supplementary question. That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

MEMBERS' ABSENCES

Mr. McCague: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, which may take a little indulgence from you: I want to inform the members of the House of the passing of the father of the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) earlier this week. I raise it today, knowing that you will want to convey the sympathies of this Legislature to the Villeneuve family.

I raise it for another point. We have a situation today where one member incorrectly accuses another, of, in this case, being on vacation. I have seen, in my 13 years or more years here, some embarrassing situations arise when in fact some of the members of the House did not know of the death of a close member of someone's family.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that you consult whomever you think appropriate to see if there is not some way that when this happens with a very close relative of a member, you might have some means of communication of that fact to the members of this House early, at the time of sorrow. I ask that you do that, please.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully to the member's request and I will certainly take it under consideration. However, this might be an appropriate time to tell all members that the tradition in most legislatures or parliaments is that members never, on any occasion, refer to the absence of any member. I know that has not been the full tradition in this particular Legislature for a number of years, but it certainly is the tradition in many other houses.

PETITION

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and it contains 798 names. In essence, the petition says:

"We love our families. Don't legislate employees to work on Sundays. We do not need wide-open Sunday shopping."

It is submitted through the Lansing Buildall company and I thank Howard Kitchen for his firm's commitment to conveying these petitions to His Honour.

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REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Lipsett from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr66, An Act to revive Ariann Developments Inc.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

LAPLANTE LITHOGRAPHING COMPANY LIMITED ACT

Mr. Velshi moved first reading of Bill Pr32, An Act to revive LaPlante Lithographing Company Limited.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Cousens moved that, pursuant to standing order 37(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside so that the House can debate a matter of urgent public importance, that being this government's refusal to conduct a full and open public inquiry into the municipal planning process; and, in particular, given the rapid and dramatic rate of growth and development in regions across this province, most notably Peel, Durham and York regions; and given that such growth has placed extreme pressure on the municipal planning process; and given that serious allegations have been made regarding the adequacy and integrity of this process in York region, the government's failure to conduct such an inquiry diminishes public confidence in the municipal planning process.

Mr. Speaker: I would inform the members of the House that my office received this motion in the proper time. Therefore, it is in order. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes, as well as representatives from the other parties.

Mr. Cousens: Recently, after a series of articles appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, a number of politicians, developers, bureaucrats and staff people have been affected by the revelations and allegations that came from those articles. I know that everyone who is involved in any way with the statements that have been made would feel better to have the air cleared and to know that everything has been open and public, and the public would then be satisfied that the due process has been done.

May I comment that in the articles, it questioned the allocation of sewers; it questioned the inspections of houses; it questioned certain projects being fast-tracked; it questioned the participation of certain politicians in the process, as well as certain bureaucrats. It raised the whole question about some developers and some people being given preferential treatment.

The whole issue, as it relates to the news articles, has far more to do with the whole area of development in the province, and not just one geographic area. There are many areas and regions that are going through significant growth—Durham, Peel, Ottawa, Kitchener—and all operate under the same provincial guidelines, so when there are concerns raised in one or two or three communities, this affects all the communities in Ontario.

What I want to have, and I am sure the people of this province want to have, is a constructive process, so that there are no unnecessary delays in continuing the growth and development of this province. We want affordable housing. If there is anything that can be done through this study and evaluation and can help to find a better process that can streamline it, so we will have affordable housing more quickly, that would be good.

We want an open review, where the public can be satisfied about the allegations and concerns that have been raised, so they are put to peace, put to rest. We want to see that any development that is going to be put into place that affects the quality of life in our province should have an open process, so the people know what is happening and understand its impact. We want the very best for our province, the best for York region, and the best for those areas that are continuing to grow.

I disagree strongly with the statement made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) when he said, "I do not think it is my job to baby-sit municipalities." That is a simplistic approach to his responsibility. Three municipalities from York region unanimously asked this government last November 25 to come and have a review of the planning processes in south York region. Instead of doing anything in south York region, the province has got three other studies under way, one in Haldimand, one in Niagara and one in Ottawa.

What about the planning processes per se? I am not only concerned with what has been raised in news articles; I am concerned about our whole province, that we continue to develop a system and a process, and to refine it as required, so that it does meet the needs of all people.

I am dealing now with a government that has had a hands-off policy, such as the minister has said, on garbage disposal, a hands-off policy on Sunday shopping, and now I am seeing a hands-off policy on the problems and concerns being raised that affect the people of York region. A police investigation will not begin to address the concerns that my people and the people from my riding are raising. Up till now, there has only been one investigator working part-time on this study, as far as we know. This police investigation does not begin to get into the systemic problems that are part of the whole planning process in municipalities across the province of Ontario.

So I strongly urge the government to carry out a full and open public inquiry into municipal planning practices, with special emphasis on south York region and other high growth areas across this province. The province has a responsibility to the people of this province to ensure that our planning process is based on fairness and integrity. Until the air is cleared, this government has done a grave disservice to its residents. I trust that through this emergency debate this afternoon, this House will begin to rise to its challenge, and members will share in the concerns I am raising and bring pressure on the government, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his cabinet ministers to begin a public inquiry without any more delay.

Mr. Breaugh: We will support the request for an emergency debate this afternoon because we think the case has been made, in the chamber and elsewhere, for investigations at several levels into the allegations that have been brought forward. I would like to quickly go through the arguments that, I think, make the case undeniable

that we ought to have a debate this afternoon, and more than that, that there is a need to provide the public with a forum where the allegations could be dealt with.

Many members have said here that there are criminal investigations under way. There are. They have been under way for some time. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has simply expanded upon an existing police investigation and moved it into adjacent municipalities. There are allegations that appear, to me at least, to warrant a criminal investigation by a police force.

During a series of *Globe and Mail* articles published in the last little while, the allegations are fairly clear that people took favours, that people took money, that people got consideration in the purchase of their homes, that people who are entrusted to be public servants in a local municipality offered some advantage to some developers that was not available to others. There are allegations that developers, in particular, were given access to sewer capacity, which of course allowed their developments to go faster than someone else's development.

1510

The allegations are not unknown to members here. They are not unknown to the public at large. In fact, people who have been following the series in the *Globe and Mail* will know that short of the kind of evidence which would be provided at a criminal trial, the allegations were pretty well expounded upon in that series. With some exceptions, there were not many names which were brought forward during the course of those articles, but there were some.

It is a tragedy, I suppose, in one sense, that if all the people who were named in the *Globe and Mail* article, particularly those who are now running for public office, are completely innocent of any of the allegations, by the time that decision is reached in some forum, whether it is here, in a criminal court or by means of a public inquiry, the election for the next three years for those people will be finished; it will be long gone. The opportunity for them in a public way to clear their names has been bypassed.

I note with interest that some of the people who were named in the *Globe and Mail* articles were among the first to call for a public inquiry. Of course, from their point of view, at that time they desperately wanted an opportunity in some public forum other than their municipal council chambers to present their side of the story. It is unfortunate that they have been denied that opportunity.

The opportunity to present their side of the case I think is just basic fairness, but the allegations which have been brought forward during the summer and the early fall months I think are substantive enough to warrant a public inquiry. I believe it is precisely that kind of inquiry which can deal with matters of this kind.

Let me make this distinction. Some of the allegations involved infractions of the Criminal Code without question: bribery, fraud, corruption. Those we understand. We have a process which can deal with that: a police investigation, charges being laid and a judicial process to deal with that. What we have some difficulty with, however, and perhaps they do not fit easily together, is the matter of ethics in government, of morality, of a code of conduct for public officials and for those who are elected to public office.

Many of the allegations centre not on criminal acts but on whether someone took advantage of who he knew, whether someone funded a political campaign and later on asked someone to do something not of a criminal nature but simply to bring forward his development proposals, simply to reassess the priorities of who gets the allocations of sewers and roads and things like that which make a housing development, for example, happen a little faster. There are allegations that a minister of the crown gave access to some member of a municipal council. All of that may have a valid explanation, but all of that certainly needs a valid explanation.

It is for that reason that we support the notion that in addition to criminal investigations now under way—which appear to me to be, at least on the investigative side, justified—there is a need for more. There is a need for a public inquiry to investigate fully and completely the allegations which are now a matter of public record. It is to this government's shame that we have not had that. Perhaps this afternoon, during the course of the emergency debate, we can deal with some of that.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the motion of my friend the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens). I just want to say that throughout the course of this fall session, the government has entertained a wide range of questions and inquiries with respect to the motion which now stands before us in the name of the member for Markham.

It has been quite clear to any objective observer of the legislative scene this fall that this government has nothing to hide in respect of these matters. We have been very candid with respect to what our responsibilities are. The

Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) has pointed out that there is a joint police investigation involving the York Region Police, I believe, who have invited in the Ontario Provincial Police. My colleague and friend the Minister of Municipal Affairs has also ordered an investigation into the administrative and planning practices in at least one of the municipalities involved, a report we expect, I gather, in the not-too-distant future.

We have no difficulty whatsoever in debating these questions, because we think we have been very frank and candid in dealing with the matters that have been raised in this particular connection.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, as you would want to me to say, speaking to the admissibility, I suppose, of the honourable member's emergency debate request, I must be perfectly candid and say to my friends that I do not personally view this as an emergency, inasmuch as we have discussed it at some length over many days and weeks in the fall session. But I say to my colleagues in the House, as always I am a very reasonable and agreeable fellow.

Mr. Breaugh: A snippy little twit.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) just used words which if I ever uttered them would of course cause an explosion on the opposition benches, and I would never want to do that. I have such good ears that I listen very carefully to what is said on the other side, and I am sometimes amazed that those who offer some of the sharpest and most delicious barbs in the place are none the less highly offended when much tamer rejoinders are offered by those on the other side.

I have always liked the member for Markham. We do not agree on very much, but he is a native eastern Ontarian, the proud son of Vankleek Hill, a gentleman of the cloth, a gentleman of business and a very distinguished practitioner of this business of politics. If for no other reason than to maintain a very good relationship with my friend from Vankleek Hill, I just want to say that while the government does not view this as an emergency but as something that has been debated at some length and where the government has put its case, I think very effectively, particularly in the actions and in the comments of the Solicitor General and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, we have nothing to hide and we are quite prepared to see this debate go forward this afternoon.

I want to say simply in conclusion that the government had planned, with the agreement of the opposition House leaders, to debate today a

very important matter affecting the water resources of Ontario, where it is clear that this government has taken a strong position, and my friend the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), the Minister of Natural Resources, came here today to debate that question because it is an important part of the government's agenda in the very important area of resource management and trading relationships.

In saying that the government has no difficulty in allowing this debate to go forward today, I want to make it clear that we none the less want the members of the opposition not to lose sight of the important government agenda and that we want to get on with that agenda as well, notwithstanding our desire to facilitate the concerns of the opposition and on this particular occasion the concern of the member for Markham.

With that observation and with the commitment that we will move back tomorrow to the water bill, I repeat that the government has nothing to hide. We have taken a strong position on these matters and we will be happy to see this debate proceed this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Members have had an opportunity to express their views on whether or not this debate should continue. I will, however, according to standing order 37(d), ask the question, shall the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the member for Markham and advise all other members that they have an opportunity to speak up to 10 minutes until we run out of speakers or the clock strikes six.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mr. Cousens: I would like to thank the honourable member for Oshawa and the New Democratic Party for their sharing of our concern and the need for this emergency debate. I would also like to thank the honourable House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), for giving us the opportunity to carry out this debate.

One thing that I have been very careful to do is not to challenge anyone with any allegations. I say that because of the sense in which the honourable House leader rose to say that his government has nothing to hide. I think we are far more interested in the whole process of municipal planning. I am not in a position to throw stones at anyone by saying he is responsible for what is happening.

Right now, we have a situation, and I believe it is an emergency. Certainly when you have the credibility of so many people being questioned by allegations, it is imperative that we do everything within our power to clear the air, remove that dark cloud from over their heads and allow all those who have been in any way implicated to have that chance to defend themselves and to come up with suggestions on how we can improve the system. I think that is fundamental to everything we are trying to say.

1520

We are not just saying it is something which is exclusively in the ridings of Markham or York Centre or York North or only within that one area. It is something which affects the municipal planning process across the province when there is growth and when there is development. That is the issue that really needs to be addressed and needs to be resolved.

I do not think it is an easy issue. One of the things that can happen is that everyone is going to say, "Stop development." I am not saying that. I think the system we have in place now can continue, but in the meantime let's have the opportunity to review it, investigate it and come out publicly so that whatever fine-tuning or whatever action needs to be taken can be taken to satisfy the public at large that there is nothing to hide.

If we do not have that public inquiry we are going to be relying on a police investigation. Quite candidly, you do not know, when a police investigation is going on, when it is finished or what they have done or what they have learned. It is a secret operation, by necessity, in the way in which the Solicitor General's ministry operates.

I have confidence in the police system, so in asking for a public inquiry into this, I am not saying there is anything the matter with the police continuing their study. But in the meantime we are talking about a systemic problem which has to do with the growth going on within our province.

Last year York region, three municipalities representing 225,000 people, asked the province, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Premier, to agree to a review. I am reading from the motion which was passed by Richmond Hill council. It was the identical motion passed in Vaughan and Markham. "In the event that neither of the above actions..."—which were calling for involvement by the province in the planning process—"that the government of Ontario undertake a formal review and restructuring of the political, administrative and financial frame-

work of the regional municipality of York to ensure that there is a fair and equitable distribution of local government services to all municipalities within the region."

This did not happen. Instead of doing anything for the people of York, this government saw fit to look at a rural municipality with very little in common with the needs and concerns of York region. They are looking at a city that is purely urban—again, not the development that is going on here—and at another community where there is static growth. Why would the government not respond to that wish a year ago?

Now we are at the point where the question is being raised not just by the politicians as it was a year ago, not just by the media; now there is an upsurge of concern during the municipal elections. Watching our local cable last night, it is the one thing everybody is talking about. The people have been implicated, the towns are implicated, the whole area. People are starting to think, "Is there something the matter there?" I personally believe that everyone whose name has been mentioned and every level of government which has been referred to will feel better when this has been properly and duly aired.

I know the Premier took exception to my drawing a parallel with the Grange commission, when Justice Samuel Grange was appointed back in 1983 to look into the 28 mysterious deaths at the Hospital for Sick Children. I was careful when I raised that question in the House to acknowledge that it is not a perfect parallel. Certainly the deaths of children are extremely serious and we were dealing with one hospital in that instance. What I am talking about here I know has one or two things in common with the Grange commission, with all due apologies to the people who would think I am trying to draw something out of that one.

The Grange commission brought into question the confidence of the people of Ontario and the public at large in the health delivery system. The moment people started questioning what was going to be happening in that hospital, everyone within that institution started to say, "Am I at fault?" There was finger-pointing. There were worried people all over the place. I suggest that same problem exists now, in the confidence at different levels within our own area, saying, "Who is at fault?" and "What is at stake?" As a result, I have to say it is to their own benefit that they have a chance to clear the air on it.

I see another parallel, and that is that when there were problems in the Hospital for Sick Children, there was a large negative impact.

There were people who did not want to have their children go to the Hospital for Sick Children. I suggest that we could well have businesses that are looking to establish themselves with their headquarters or operations in our communities, and now, because of allegations based not on publicly accepted points of view, might start saying, "My, I will not want to establish my business there." So that lack of trust can have a contagious impact on a growing community that wants to continue to present the best face it can, to show that it is doing the right things for all people and treating people equally.

I also believe that there is another parallel. First of all, there is the parallel that, in fact, what is happening here goes right to the core of confidence. It also has many negative impacts if nothing is done on it. If this government is just going to say, "We're not going to do anything about it," then I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is the same as the way in which the government is dealing with the Sunday shopping issue, it is the same as the way in which it is dealing with garbage disposal; it is a hands-off approach, and that is not the way to deal with an issue that is at the heart of public confidence in the political system.

As for having a police investigation, even at the Hospital for Sick Children it did not bring out anything, and yet when they had the Grange Commission they were able to bring out a number of issues that set procedures in place for the future.

I am hoping that, through this kind of inquiry, we can come out with some refined ways in which the public can always be involved in knowing what is going on with some of the large developments going on in their community. There is something different that takes place when you have a very large development in excess of 50 or 100 acres, something that has environmental sensitivity to it, something that is going to involve massive local dollars in order to maintain and support it.

Maybe through this kind of inquiry we will begin to find new ways of refining the system to allow those to have that public review. Maybe there are other situations in which we can speed up the approval process. Maybe through the whole thing we can find ways of finding more affordable housing. If in fact the delays going on now, that are part of the planning process, cause property values to increase, then we can find ways of redressing that.

I have not yet taken a poll to find out if everybody really wants to have a public inquiry. I

think some people are concerned that it could be a witchhunt that is pointing just to York region. I do not want that kind of thing. I think it goes beyond York region and cuts into the very system of how the municipal planning process works. It has worked well over the years. There has not been a study per se of this particular subject until now. The Urban Development Institute of Ontario has done some kind of study and has given that to the minister. It is not a public document, so I do not have that at my disposal. But there are a number of different groups that I know would come together and support the kind of public inquiry I am talking about.

If we have police investigation, which is what is pending right now, they are just going to be looking at the law as it is. We are not yet coming up with the long-term improvements we should be working for. This government has not achieved that perfection yet. No government will ever achieve that perfection. But if we can at least have a provincial inquiry into the process of development, we will be on the way to making it a better province for everybody.

Mr. Breagh: I want to begin by saying that this is not the first time that allegations have been made here at Queen's Park and elsewhere that someone, in the development industry in particular, courted favour with municipal governments or with ministers of the crown or with the provincial government as a whole by means of making political contributions to campaigns or granting favours to politicians at many different levels, and then somehow transformed that donation into a great advantage.

1530

Members will know, and I think members of the public will know as well, that the federal level of government does not escape this either. We have gone through, in the last three or four years, a wide range of accusations against members of the federal cabinet and members of the federal parliament on the government side that they in fact traded favours in some way; that they got donations from individuals; that they in some way influenced the issuing of government contracts or the purchase or the lease of government office space; that they curried the favour of the government with dollar bills and they did so with a good deal of extravagance. Most of us here would say that is wrong, and the public certainly does as well.

In part, the need for an inquiry into what has happened in the growth regions in and around Metro centres on that very issue. I do not think there is a member here who comes from those

areas who does not understand very well that, with the best of intentions, a local council and a small planning and public works staff are struggling these days to cope with the development pressure that is on these communities around Metro.

There is nobody on a council who doubts for a minute that the decisions of a council and the planning reports that are prepared and the public works reports that are put together are the factors that go together to decide which of the development proposals will generate so much money for the private sector. There is absolutely no question that each week of the year, somewhere in one of those regions around Metro, some developer puts forward a proposal and the decision of that council on that night makes that individual literally millions of dollars.

We are not talking about someone taking a small favour. We are not talking about someone who makes a judgement call and the people on the other side of the judgement call protest that it is not quite fair. What we are talking about now, specifically this afternoon, is a rather detailed allegation that has been put together by one of Canada's national newspapers. It has taken the time to send out its reporters and its staff. It has gone through records at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and in the municipalities that are named in the news stories, and has done a pretty thorough job of putting together what I guess many of us would consider to be the gossip on the street.

It is that research which has turned it from being the gossip that we all hear. There is nobody in any community who cannot repeat a story he heard somewhere of somebody at the golf club or the curling club who got a favour because he knows the mayor, who had some advantage from a local public works supervisor because he had a pot-hole and he met the guy at the corner store and he stopped the gravel truck and put it in there. That is clearly not what is being alleged here.

What is alleged in this series of articles, and it has been followed up by a series of questions in the Legislature, is that we are talking about multimillion-dollar deals. We are talking about people in the private sector who will make huge profits. We are talking about citizens who will buy homes at outrageous prices. When they do so, they have a reasonable expectation that the process works honestly and fairly. They have a reasonable expectation that when they pay \$300,000 and \$400,000 for a home, somebody did not pad his pocket on the side on the way through, and a reasonable expectation that when

they pay that kind of money for a house, there will be a street and a road system, a transportation system, a health care system, a school system, a police system and a fire system that are worthy of that kind of price.

And they will not get it; they will know that. They will want to know, how did all of these plans of development get approved? These are going to be tough and legitimate questions, and this government may decide, at the end of this afternoon, that it will just kind of stay the course.

It is going to have this inquiry sooner or later. I do not care how long it stalls it. It can have all the police investigations it wants, but the scope of the allegations is much too large now to contain it.

They can say, and I am sure somebody will this afternoon, that the articles that were published in the Toronto newspapers detailing the donations that were made to the Liberal Party of Ontario have nothing to do with the approvals. They can remind themselves that they made those exact same allegations against the previous government and they did not let up on it either, because it certainly does raise the question in my mind that if somebody hands over a lot of money to your political coffers this year, are you going to give them a slightly better ear than somebody who did not?

The interesting thing is that, as I read the allegations and the names of the individuals who are put forward here, I seem to recall them in previous allegations as being prominent contributors to the Progressive Conservative Party. I think if we go back far enough back in the Hansards, we will find some ministers of the crown over there who made those exact same allegations from these benches not so long ago.

We are certainly talking about exactly the same lands, and we are certainly talking about exactly the same process, and we are certainly talking about whether that is right or wrong. I will not read into the record this afternoon whether the Liberal Party of Ontario thought this was wrong a few years ago. They sure did.

I think we deserve a process now which investigates—not the criminal acts; that is not our job at all and that should not be the job of a public inquiry, and I accept that we have now a police investigation under way.

I will say that I really doubt that anybody who stands to make a million dollars in a real estate deal is going to be stupid enough to get caught in that process. I doubt that a lot. I may be wrong and they may be caught in a police investigation, but when it is all finished, I doubt that they are

going to have handed over the money when anybody was standing around.

I do not know why they would be stupid enough to hand you the money under the table when they can hand it to you over the table. I do not know why they would be dumb enough to break the election expenses act, provincially or federally, when all they have to have is the brains to go around their office and say: "I have a limit on the amount of money that I can donate as a corporation to a political party. Why don't the 12 of you who are working in my office all make the donation equally on my behalf?"

I will bet they found that loophole fairly quickly. I will bet they know more about the municipal elections expenses act than the minister does; I will bet they know more about the provincial election expenses act than the minister does. I will bet they have lawyers and accountants who advise them on a daily basis on how to do this.

As one of the newspaper stories alleged, they may well have given a senior public servant a shopping cart full of liquor, and he may well have been stupid enough to go back to the liquor store with the shopping cart full of liquor and try to cash it in. That may have happened, but I have to tell you, if you are paying someone in the public sector who would actually do that kind of thing, he deserves to lose his job.

Mr. Epp: If you believe that, I'll sell you some ...

Mr. Breaugh: Herbie, you couldn't sell me a piece of land in the middle of Rome.

I think there is a need to move to a public inquiry, and not just of the criminal allegations that have been made. I think there is a need to sort out now what is appropriate behaviour on the part of a local council, on the part of local staff; what checks and balances do we have to combat what is a vexing problem?

I will conclude by putting this: I do not know whether the mayor of Markham, in the purchase of a home, did something wrong. It does not look quite kosher to me, but I do not know whether any criminal problem occurred there. But I would put to any member here that if you are the mayor of Markham, it stands to reason to me you are quite likely to buy a house in Markham and you are quite likely to buy a house from a developer who continues to develop residential projects in your own community. So there is a bit of a problem.

I think that problem needs to be looked at by means of a public inquiry. I think it is only reasonable to give all those who have now been

kind of slammed in one of our largest newspapers an opportunity to explain their side of the story. I think there is a need to look at whether the process is now appropriate or whether it has encountered some difficulties which indicate it ought to be changed.

As someone who spent some time in municipal politics, I do not doubt for a minute that there is every chance in the world that every single allegation that has been made in Canada's national newspaper is true. What I would like is a chance to test whether, in a fair way, we can make that judgement at the end of a public inquiry.

1540

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I just want to say that this government welcomes the opportunity to discuss the municipal planning process and to learn more about the opposition's concerns regarding this issue.

I want to emphasize very clearly that this government and my ministry have not ruled out a commission of inquiry. I think the Premier has stated very clearly today that, on the advice of the Attorney General, the Ontario Provincial Police investigation will continue. It may very well be that following that inquiry of the OPP, a commission of inquiry will take place. I cannot forecast whether it will or it will not, but that has not been ruled out.

I want to say that this is not just a decision that was made in the last few weeks following the allegations which were made in the newspaper, but this was a decision that I made some months ago in the summer when I wrote to Wilfred Death, I believe, of Richmond Hill when he had written to me about a commission of inquiry some time ago. We took his letter very seriously. I wrote to him and said that because of the OPP investigation, I felt it was not appropriate to decide whether a commission of inquiry should proceed or not, but it is there. If it is necessary to continue, then I can assure the member, as the Premier gave assurance today, that can very well happen.

But I must tell the member about something that we were able to do because we recognize some of the problems that are taking place in York region. We found that we were not satisfied, for instance in Richmond Hill, that the administrative staff was able to deal with many of the problems that were confronting a fast-growing community, one of the fastest-growing communities in this part of the province.

What we did do, and I what I did as the minister, was to order an inquiry into the

planning and administrative practices of Richmond Hill. That is now under way. We have not waited for these allegations to surface before taking action. I want to say that when I assumed the office of minister, I took some very early action to give greater accountability and greater respectability to municipal government in this province; like when I introduced Bill 29 for direct elections to Metro council so the people who serve in this great metropolitan area would be able to give their full-time attention to the problems of Metropolitan Toronto. It was followed by Bill 106 to give greater accountability, because in the past there had been nothing in place in regard to contribution limits, expense limits and the reporting system in which those who contribute to anyone's municipal campaign must declare the amount of money they contributed and the candidate they contributed to. Following this election, that information will be available in every clerk's office across this province.

I believe the member must give us credit for the action that we have taken. He forgets to mention these things, I say to my friend the member for Markham. I also want to say that when I introduced these reforms, some said, "You are not moving fast enough." Others said: "You are moving too fast. Why do you not slow down?" Let me tell members what some of the members said.

"I just think the minister would be doing the honourable thing if he were to decide to put off this bill and make it effective for the 1991 elections." That was the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague). Here is another good quote from a member—

Mr. Cousens: You are saying it has been perfectly clean.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I would feel not very responsible had I put these bills off until the 1991 election, let me tell you. Here is another quote from a member who is in the House.

"A great idea, that is municipal election reform for the first time, is going to be messed up and leave a sour taste in everybody's mouth because the government has not heeded the request for taking a longer period of time to bring this in." That was the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). Then we have the member for Oshawa, who said, "I believe that with the number of changes that are being proposed under this bill, it is not practical to try to implement it at this date."

I feel that we took the appropriate action and moved ahead with this bill.

I referred today to the fact that I was not satisfied with the conflict-of-interest legislation. We are reviewing that at the present time, because it bothers me when I hear a municipal councillor challenge a constituent and say, "If you are not happy with what has taken place, then produce your money and take me to court." I do not think that is right. I believe the conflict of interest has to be tightened up.

Then again, we do not have unanimous support among the opposition. The member for Oshawa thinks we should move very quickly but the member for Markham is quoted in the *Globe and Mail* as saying:

"Donald Cousens, the Conservative Party Municipal Affairs critic, said yesterday he did not support changes to make it easier for citizens to initiate conflict actions, otherwise the courts would be filled with groundless accusations." It quotes him as saying, "People better be prepared to face up to their responsibilities if they are wrong."

We have been moving in a number of areas here. The member for Markham was talking about regional studies. He mentioned that York region had asked for a regional study.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: He ran away.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Did he leave? Some of the municipalities in York region wanted a review of their municipal government but it is my understanding, and I stand to be corrected, that some of them opposed that. If the York region council brings to me a resolution supported by the York region council asking for a review of its regional government, I will give it very serious consideration.

There are three reviews under way in the province at the present time: Ottawa-Carleton, Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara. These regional studies cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$400,000, so the reason we have not proceeded with a number of others is that we feel there will be some common threads from these three studies under way at the present and perhaps it will mean that we will not have to have in every region a comprehensive review. But we do not rule them out and we are willing to take a look at the various regions.

I must tell members also that we are reviewing the Municipal Act. We are also reviewing our county government. We are not waiting for problems to develop further in our counties across this province. We are taking action. Under a number of my colleagues in the Legislature, we are looking at the system of county governments in the hope of strengthening them to make them

more effective, more accountable, and to give our municipal government greater responsibility.

I look forward today to hearing from members of the opposition some of the problems with the Municipal Act or the Planning Act. When they do, let me tell them, we have nothing to hide and I will look into that. But I have not heard that today. Most of the allegations being made are of a criminal nature, and they are being looked into.

In the other areas the honourable member mentions, one of the things he was talking about was the pressures of building. As I mentioned to the leader of the member for Markham last week, when he was talking about some of the infrastructures, the sewer and water system, this was determined back in April of 1983, I believe it was, by the former Premier of this province, Mr. Davis, who wrote to the chairman of the region, talking about being able to develop in the region. This is what the Premier wrote:

"If, through the program, it can be demonstrated that there is additional capacity which can be satisfactorily used, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing would be prepared to accept amendments to the local official plans to permit additional development." An additional development proceeded on that basis. He said also: "The responsibility for this rests primarily with the regional level of government."

If we are talking about the growth and development in the York region, the former Premier told them, "If the capacity is there, you can proceed and go ahead and build."

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is endeavouring to improve the Planning Act and the Municipal Act. We have introduced some amendments to Bill 128, which I hope will be coming back into the House soon, and we will be dealing with those. We look forward to their support.

I look forward to hearing the comments on the particular concerns that the members have. I would like to stress the government's willingness to participate in this dialogue. I believe that we have shown great leadership in establishing policies.

1550

Mr. Pope: It is my pleasure, on behalf of my colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party, to join in this debate. I must say in response to the minister that he sprayed in all directions without addressing the essential point of the motion for emergency debate and the holding of this debate. He talked about everything else he had done on every other front in his ministry without directly addressing the concerns that

have been raised in the newspapers of Metropolitan Toronto and, through them, in the rest of the province, and the concerns that have been raised by members of this Legislature through question period and through the moving of this emergency debate proposal for some days now.

It is not good enough to indicate that the minister has made progress on other fronts and that is the answer to the concerns that have been raised. It is not good enough to make reference to a former Premier as a way of sloughing off his own responsibilities to make decisions on this matter. It is not good enough to say that the accusations are only criminal in nature when he knows very well that they are not only criminal in nature but address themselves to the fundamental processes of planning and municipal approvals in this province, not necessarily just criminal activity but the whole approval process and how it is handled: whether or not developers and builders, big and small, feel that they are being treated fairly and equally by those responsible for planning and planning approvals in this province.

It is not good enough, as minister responsible to the rest of us in this province, as the minister is, to look to other fields of endeavour within his ministry and to other people or to other excuses for not addressing the fundamental issue contained in this resolution. The minister has not addressed the fundamental concern contained in this resolution.

His only response has been the backhanded promise that he might have a public inquiry at a later date. The allegations have been made, not just of criminal conduct but of conduct of the planning process in this province. Those allegations have been made. He has been asked questions in the Legislature. The Premier has been asked questions in the Legislature. Surely to goodness if the minister is prepared to say that at some future date he may have an inquiry based on what he has heard so far, he can then proceed expeditiously to have an inquiry now, while the concerns are there, while the people of York region are voicing those concerns and while this issue is current and on the minds of those who are involved in the planning process and in the development of affordable housing in this province.

Why would he wait when those concerns are there? Why would he refuse to address them? Why would he not dovetail a public inquiry along with all of the other processes of the government?

The Premier today said: "Well, we have an OPP investigation going on. We will leave it at

that." Then, later on, he said, "We wouldn't rule out an inquiry." Now the minister is saying that he might have an inquiry at a later date. He should just get on with the inquiry. He knows it is required; he virtually admitted that in his statement here today. He should just get on with it.

The OPP investigation of Wyda Systems Canada Inc. has gone on for three years and there is no indication of any end in sight. This situation, based on public concern and the problems of development in York region, cannot go on for three years while there is a pending OPP investigation. It has to be addressed now, and not just in the context of any potential criminal activity, which I am not going to address at all, but in the context of the planning processes of this province and how they reflect themselves in affordable housing for our fellow citizens.

Is that not the ultimate goal of the planning process, of housing development programs in this province, to provide to men and women and their families someplace acceptable to them that they can afford to live in? That has been the objective, I am sure, of this minister. I am sure that it is the objective of the current Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and of this government. Surely those kinds of issues and the effect of this process and the allegations that have been made, that effect on the cost of housing, the availability of housing, the perception of fairness in the planning process and in the development process can be and should be addressed in the public inquiry forum.

Vague assurances are no good. They are no good for small builders who want to get into the construction market. They are no good for small, beginning developers who see the allegations that you have to be a big shot to get a subdivision through. They are no good for people who want some competitive options for affordable housing in York region and across the province. Surely this minister and the Minister of Housing have both worried about and analysed the impact of these problems and many others on affordability in Ontario.

We have made allegations in the past that government programs accelerate the cost of land, accelerate the cost of housing and therefore accelerate the cost of home ownership in this province. The men, women and families of this province are paying for housing with after-tax dollars. It is tough to make mortgage payments. Housing prices are escalating rapidly in every major urban section and municipality of this province. Granted, healthy competition is fine. If

costs of construction and costs of servicing of land are increasing, obviously that cost must be passed through and on. But if there are other elements to cost increases that do not directly relate to the construction and servicing of housing projects in this province, then surely the response of any caring government that worries about the ability of young families to get housing that they can afford now and in the future is to want to have a public inquiry into it and examine all of these issues and problems.

I say to the government that I think that would be a proper response. I said earlier that some of the public housing programs of this province have in fact ended up increasing the cost of housing and the cost of rent that ordinary Ontarians pay. I think that is clear, for instance, from the Renterprise project. In spite of the answers of the Premier of this province with respect to the project in Timmins, where he said that the Renterprise contract was awarded to a few property owners, it is clear that the Ministry of Housing's announcement when this project was begun indicated that the awarding of that contract was not to the owners of the land but to Advance Property Management Consultants Inc. It is clear that that is what the press release was.

It is clear now from the searches in the corporations branch, the companies branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, that two individuals from London were the secretary-treasurer, the president and directors and now, by admission in the newspapers of London, shareholders of that company. They got the approval; they got the contract. When you make your application for government subsidy, the application form clearly sets out the cost of land. The allocated cost of land in the Timmins project was \$410,000; when they bought the land for \$353,000, the difference was profit in their pockets. The operation of the Renterprise program in Ontario resulted in a net cash profit to the developers of this land, using the government approval.

If the government programs of this government are going to lead to inflationary increases in the cost of land which are going to be passed on to those people who need that housing desperately; if there is going to be no discipline or control over Renterprise projects or any other government projects or programs in the housing field; if there is going to be no proper administration to see that there is not that kind of rapid escalation or speculation on land based on government contracts, then how can we expect this government itself to do anything with respect to other

speculative increases in land that do not relate to direct costs of servicing, do not relate to direct costs of construction or do not even relate to the direct cost of the planning process, with planners, lawyers and all else that is required?

1600

Therefore, I say it is not good enough to give a vague assurance. It is not good enough to spread the blame over previous administrations and try to work people's names into his explanation. It is not good enough, as the Premier did on Thursday, October 27, to file written responses in the Legislature that are factually incorrect as a way of explaining what has become a disastrous housing project in Timmins. It is not good enough to try to avoid producing the documents, forcing me to bring an application under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to get what is the right of every member of this Legislature.

The government owes it to the people of this province, the working men and women and their families who want affordable housing, to be up front, to begin this public inquiry and to get everything on the table so that we can have more affordable housing for our fellow Ontarians.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I rise to speak on this issue today with regret, for two reasons, the first being that I was really looking forward to getting up and talking about the water sales to the United States of the Minister of Natural Resources and his linkage with the free trade deal. I was really anxious that we could do an awful lot of lambasting of the member for Niagara Falls today. I regret that that has been overtaken by this particular matter. We will do this another day and we will tear our political strips off that member at that time.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Carrying on in a way that is not responsible is your goofy position.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister may call it a goofy position, but anybody who puts together a bill whose whole purpose is to license the sale of water and pretend that is going to stop the sale of water is a buffoon in this House. That is the minister's role. We are not here for comic entertainment by the minister.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Well then, sit down.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We do not need a buffoon in the cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You answer the description to a T.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Vince, if you cannot take the heat without turning around and

pretending you have not sold out our water, sir, then that is your problem.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Order, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The second, slightly more provocative reason I regret rising on this today, is that I find it incredible that I do so before members of a Liberal reform government, a government that supposedly came into power to open up the walls that have been put up over the years, that argued incessantly when it was sitting here against a huge Tory majority that there needed to be a review of how planning was being undertaken, that we needed inquiries into all sorts of land deals. I remember time and time again Liberals rising to raise those kinds of matters.

Instead, today we have a minister who says there is no need for a review, who says the police inquiry is sufficient. This is the same minister, if I might remind him, who was quoted on January 14 of this year as indicating that it may still be necessary to have a public inquiry into land sales in Vaughan because investigations up to that point had not produced the results we had been expecting. That was last January.

Here we are now with this much Hansard and public statements in the press about questions of wrongdoing or potential wrongdoing in the speculation in land prices around this area. That is just the last month or so. This government says that some sort of police inquiry trying to discover if the very flawed legislation that it had been left by a Tory government of the past is enough, is all we need for an investigation at this stage. I say that is preposterous.

I also wonder why it is that this minister or another minister has not risen in this House to say categorically when the money that was given to the Liberal government by several of the land developers involved, some \$112,650 that was given to this party by these men, was paid and why he has not answered the question rightfully raised by Mr. Volpe in the Globe and Mail as to when that money was paid.

Was it paid during an election campaign? These are the guys who used to fund the Tory party, members will recall, during an election, and especially between elections. Or did they pay them this money in the three months after they got their big majority? When did they get the bucks? I think the people deserve to know that.

I think the people also need to know about just what is happening in terms of the mix of speculation that is driving prices up like crazy in this province. Yet we have the Premier and the

Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) day after day, in response to questions from the member from Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) about a speculation tax, saying this is just one of those sweet miseries that has to befall the people of Metropolitan Toronto and surrounding districts now because we are moving to world-class status.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: A market correction.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is just a sweet market correction. Is that all it is?

They do not want to look at the question of who is profiteering here. They do not think, as reform Liberals, that is worthy of a public inquiry.

I remember why I thought Tories in the past days would never allow that sort of public inquiry. They used to think that it would get a little too close to the bone, that some connections would come up which they really would not want to have brought forward.

I cannot believe that that could be the view of the Liberal Party, the reform party of Ontario; or is there a little nervousness about now with this myriad of municipal Liberal candidates who are running afoul of the much-vaunted Municipal Elections Act that the minister has just talked about? Maybe there is a concern that things are going to rub too close to the bone for those guys as well, because surely what is being asked here is not whether or not a nice point of law was broken. As the member for Oshawa said, these are clever people with lots of lawyers who know exactly how to find the loopholes in acts. That is not the issue.

The issue is, what is going wrong in our planning system that is allowing this huge speculation in costs to be taking place? How is it that, time and time again, questions of the kind that are being raised are being raised about townships like Vaughan or regions like York, about mayors and about where the housing is and whether they are getting special deals or not?

Why is it that this government, unbelievably, does not think a public inquiry into all this might be useful as they may be finally getting around to doing some major redress of the Planning Act, some major redress of the issues around speculation that is taking place now in Ontario?

This minister quoted me recently as saying I was opposed to his supposed election reforms. I tell him I am still opposed to them. I think they still favour wealthy candidates, especially people who got their money from developers last January or last December, incumbents who are already in there who are of some questionable connection in this way. They are very, very

tough on anybody who is trying to run as an independent these days, as he will no doubt hear from people as they try to meet their debts so quickly following this election.

This minister, if members can believe it, was quoted as saying he is not the babysitter of the municipalities and that he does not see that as his role. I would be very interested to know just what role this minister thinks he has for overseeing the development of housing—affordable housing, one might have hoped—in this province, to make sure that those creatures of the province known as municipalities are not accountable just to their own electorate but are following the kind of philosophy that we want in the legislation that we have established for them to operate under.

The minister may not call that baby-sitting. He may want to call it monitoring, he may want to call it reviewing; but it is unthinkable to me that, as a minister, he would have the gall to get up here in this House today and say what he said, knowing the problems that people have finding affordable housing, that you need \$86,000 or \$88,000 a year to be able to afford the average house in Toronto now.

We know of the kinds of concerns, the broad, broad range of concerns that have been raised in the newspapers of late concerning the districts involved in the motion that is before us today, and all he thinks we need is a police inquiry, a police inquiry that will have to be incredibly limited to the niceties of our present law, which is a Tory law and which is a flawed law, instead of saying this is the time to open it up, this is the time to have a public inquiry to look at these issues in large terms, and if necessary to move quickly, as swiftly as possible, to redress the inequities in that legislation. It is the consumers in our province who want affordable housing who are being stuck with the problems.

I would have hoped that this minister would have been in favour of a public inquiry and would not just try to slough it aside.

1610

Mr. Epp: I am pleased to participate in this emergency debate. I must say I am not sure it is an emergency because it is some weeks now since those articles appeared in the paper, and finally, two or three weeks later, the third party decides this was an emergency. To add to the importance of the emergency, it has all of two members in the House today to show how important it is to them. I am not quite sure that really indicates the emergency aspect of it.

Nevertheless, it is the goal of this government to ensure a strong, effective and accountable

planning process. We are always looking for ways to improve it, as you know Mr. Speaker, and to ensure that the Planning Act is one all of us can live with quite easily and one that effectively does what it is supposed to do.

This government is committed to an open planning process and is actively involved in a dialogue with the development industry and municipalities to improve the development process.

As the Minister of Municipal Affairs has indicated, we have a bill before this House that proposes a series of amendments to the Planning Act to improve the effectiveness of that process. For example, in response to municipal and industry concerns, we propose that the zoning process be improved by reducing the minimum time for zoning bylaws to come into effect from 65 days to 41 days.

This bill is a priority of this government and clearly indicates our determination to take action on this issue.

The planning process we have today is essentially the one established by the previous government, and one we are working to improve. However, we realize that there are other matters concerning this issue which are outside the planning process itself, such as the rules affecting conflict of interest.

We must remember that the planning process allows changes in land use to occur. Each proposal is reviewed on its own merits and involves formalized public participation, municipal examination of future community objectives and a full provincial review. If there are any specific concerns with the planning process itself, we would like to hear them from the opposition.

We continue to improve the legislation and planning process ourselves to ensure that the process remains open and accountable. The public, whom we serve, is given formal opportunities to participate in the decision-making process. The public also has the right to appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board. The board makes its decision based on the merits of the application. We feel this process is vital to a proper and open land use process in Ontario.

Mrs. Marland: In rising to speak on the motion by my colleague the member for Markham dealing with this government's refusal to conduct a full and open public inquiry into the municipal planning process, I must comment at the outset that I was somewhat amazed a few moments ago to hear the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) say that he wonders why this

motion is today since the articles in the newspapers appeared some weeks ago.

Well, I hope that the member for Waterloo North is up to date with his reading because in fact it is not some weeks ago. This concern has been in the newspapers as recently as within the past week; not only that, the reason the two opposition parties are now drawn into the only alternative we have left, which is an emergency debate, is simply because for the past week, both opposition parties have been asking this Liberal government to do just what this motion addresses.

We have been saying, "Have a full and open public inquiry." Why are they not doing this, and do they have the answers and explanations for what has been going on in York region in particular, which has led to the newspaper articles? Because of the frustration the two opposition parties have, there has been no alternative left. I hope the member for Waterloo North understands why it is we are where we are today.

Mr. Epp: Could you tell us why you have only two members?

Mrs. Marland: I think it is very interesting that the member for Waterloo North has just asked me why we have two members in our House. I would like to point out that we have 12 Liberal government members in this House. I suggest to the member from Waterloo North—

Mr. Ballinger: Right behind you, Margaret.

Mrs. Marland: I counted him.

Mr. Ballinger: Thank you.

Mrs. Marland: That to have in this House two members of the Progressive Conservative caucus, which numbers 17 in total, is a far higher percentage than 12 out of a total of 94 of the Liberal government.

I feel that if the Liberal government were concerned about this debate at all, certainly the previous speaker, the member for Waterloo North, might have spoken for more than four minutes. Obviously, it is an issue that this government is not concerned with.

I want to tell the members that the Progressive Conservative caucus of Ontario is concerned about this issue. We are concerned about the fact that the Liberal government fails to show leadership and direction when it is needed. The two statutes that govern municipalities in the area of development are obviously the Municipal Act and the Planning Act. When there are problems within the regions that have been addressed this

afternoon that relate to development and relate to the function of the municipalities—

Interjections.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, I understand interjections are not allowed when a member is not in his seat and I would appreciate it if you would address that to the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) who is not speaking from his own seat.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mahoney: We got 12 per cent; you got 11.

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, if you could direct the member for Mississauga West to the rules of the House, it might be appropriate.

This issue is far more serious than obviously this Liberal government wants to realize. The fact that we have the flippancy of the comments that are ongoing in the House this afternoon is an indication that there is not a sincere interest in the problems currently being experienced in York region that have been addressed by the newspaper articles of the last several weeks, and as recently as this past week. The concerns that we have are the fact that people really get hurt.

Mr. Mahoney: Point of order.

Mrs. Marland: When people really get hurt, Mr. Speaker, it is generally the small person who gets hurt.

Mr. Mahoney: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: A point of order has been raised by the member for Mississauga West. Could we hear your point of order.

Mr. Mahoney: I am sorry to interrupt my colleague the member for Mississauga South, but I think it is unfortunate the member would suggest that this government is not serious. We agreed to the emergency debate, Mr. Speaker. We are participating in that debate. The member has pointed out in percentages—

The Acting Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr. Mahoney: We have exactly 12 per cent; the Conservative party has 11 per cent. The member should stick to the issue and not be dealing in the frivolities she was mentioning.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Sit down, Steve.

An hon. member: Good point of order.

The Acting Speaker: Order, the member for Oshawa.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak to the point of order: I am not quite sure whether you will rule it a point of order or not, but I have

noticed on several occasions when the House rules indicate that members are allowed only a set period of time—this afternoon, it is ten minutes to speak—we are regularly hearing points of order that really are not points of order, but do have the net effect of deducting time from a member who has already got a compressed time period.

I would simply ask you, whatever your ruling is, to allow the member to speak for her allotted 10 minutes no matter how many points of order are raised. I think that is not an unreasonable thing to do.

1620

The Acting Speaker: That would take a motion for unanimous consent.

Mr. Breagh: I so move.

The Acting Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to allow additional time to the member for Mississauga South? Do we have unanimous consent?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Mississauga South has the floor for an additional two minutes.

Mrs. Marland: That outburst by the member for Mississauga West is singularly significant because of his own personal sensitivity. I want to say that because this Liberal government is living in such fear and peril of the truth coming out, its members stand in this House and play the kinds of games the member for Mississauga West has just played. Because we have 10 minutes of debate of this issue, I feel it is very unfair—

Mr. Mahoney: You got the extra time. You want a fight, maybe you'll get one.

Mrs. Marland: He is continuing to froth at the mouth and interject.

I feel it is very unfair. It is a democratic process here of 10 minutes per member, but this member chooses to interrupt because he does not want to hear the truth. It is indicative of this Liberal government today in Ontario, which professes to be a wide-open government. In fact, it is not. They cannot even tolerate a 10-minute speech by somebody from the opposition who might just happen to reveal something, if they would like to listen, which they might benefit from knowing.

What the people in the Liberal government seem to forget is that they represent people in the same way we do. Why do they not do it with some conscience and some commitment instead

of playing games where they limit the opportunity of opposition members to speak? It is too bad, if you are a lowly backbencher and you do not get a chance to speak, you decide to defeat everybody else's opportunity.

I want to tell members the reason behind this debate. The people who sit on this side of the House in the two opposition parties are concerned about the little people who get hurt in the kind of situation going on today in York region. Also, we are concerned about equity. Certainly, the developers and builders are in business, we recognize that; but we also recognize that in this whole process the people who really get hurt in the end are the people who are involved with the building industry, the tradespeople, the bricklayers, the carpenters, the suppliers, and in the end the home owners.

In the end, the delay caused by the insinuations that have been made against the municipalities and the elected members of those municipalities only costs—guess who?—the poor home owner who is trying to buy an affordable house in this province today. It so happens that in the fastest-growing regions around Metropolitan Toronto, that is a very severe problem, the escalating price of those homes, and anything which causes a delay means the homes cost more.

If we are talking about employment and equity for people who get to build those homes, then I would think this Liberal government would say, if there is a problem with the Municipal Act and the Planning Act in this whole process, "Yes, we'll have a full and public open inquiry." What is so wrong with this world-class Liberal government, which boasts about being wide open, in having a full public inquiry?

Is it not rather significant that this afternoon the member for Victoria-Haliburton, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, said there may be a public inquiry at a later date? Is that not exciting? There may be. If he has already made that assessment, then my question is, why not now? Why not at least put it to rest if there is nothing in those regions that is a legitimate cause for concern? It is rather like accusing somebody of molesting little children and not doing anything about it. That person who has the accusation at his head is guilty; unfortunately, because of the system we are in today, that person is guilty by association and insinuation.

If members opposite believe in truth and justice as a Liberal government, why would they not do everything within their power to show leadership in this government to eliminate the

kind of insinuation that is damning all of those people? If it is without feet, if it is without truth, then why would they not want to hear it as leaders in the Ontario Legislature? Why would they not at least owe it to the people of York region that they hear it too? It is too late now, obviously, because the municipal election is next Monday.

Ms. Bryden: I am very glad that we are having this debate and calling for an inquiry, because I certainly think the development process in this whole Golden Horseshoe area is a public scandal, and the provincial legislation in both the Municipal Act and the Planning Act is much too weak in this field.

The proposal of the Minister of Housing to bring in an amendment to the Planning Act that would make housing one of the subjects that can be declared a matter of provincial interest is still not passed and does not have any guidelines in it as to what she would consider the kind of housing policies that should be permitted for municipalities and regional governments. If we just say that they are able to appeal it to the cabinet, assuming that it is declared a matter of provincial interest, we will have no guidelines as to what is appealable and what is likely to be rejected by the cabinet.

I think we have to have some guidelines that would indicate when an appeal is justified, but I think the province is going to have to take responsibility for turning down some of these shockingly exploitive developments that are going through municipal councils.

We do not know whether they are influenced by the developers being friendly or financially aiding the councillors. I hope that is not happening, but certainly the stories in the newspapers make one very sceptical. It indicates the need for much stronger provincial legislation regarding political contributions for both municipal and provincial elections.

The present legislation for municipalities is just ridiculous. The period in which one has to report contributions is from January 1 till the election date. Seeing that date, most people, if they wish to make contributions that are not reported, will, of course, make them before January 1. I am sure that is what has happened this year.

It has left our incumbents, presumably some of them anyway, with donations that are much greater than those the nonincumbents will have. The nonincumbents have been denied any sort of a tax rebate from all but two local governments. One is a school board and another is a municipality. This puts the incumbents in a very

strong position vis-à-vis those who are challenging them. We have to get an amendment to the election expenses part of the Municipal Elections Act.

Whenever pollsters ask people in the Golden Horseshoe what are the most critical issues facing them, they almost unanimously say housing and pollution. "Increases in house prices in this area lead the nation," according to the Hamilton Spectator of October 13, 1988. In Hamilton, they rose 12.1 per cent from August 1987 to August 1988. In Toronto, they rose 16.2 per cent. In Durham region, a recent survey of community needs conducted by the social planning council of Newcastle, Oshawa and Whitby found affordable housing topped the list, according to an October 7, 1988, article in the Oshawa Times. But just moments before this finding was reported to the regional council, the councillors approved an amendment to its official plan, allowing 50 single-family homes to be built in a Whitby subdivision originally allotted for up to 124 town houses.

1630

This illustrates the extent to which the regional and municipal governments are listening to the urgings of the Minister of Housing to stop building high-priced houses on huge lots sometimes exceeding an acre and worth over \$1 million. This illustrates the regional and municipal governments' willingness to set aside official plans, presumably at the urging of developers. This also illustrates their unwillingness to encourage increased density and affordable housing.

Another example is the city of Scarborough, which has forced its own housing company to stand at the back of the line for surplus Metro lands that might best have been used for low-cost homes. Instead, Scarborough is encouraging development of what is known as a Millionaires Row in one section of the city.

In downtown Toronto, huge developments are being passed by the city council, which will produce more office space than affordable housing. Under the bonusing plans being approved for these megadevelopments, they can get extra height—up to 57 storeys for the Bay-Adelaide development—if they promise to build nonprofit housing units somewhere else. In the case of the Bay-Adelaide development a quickie overnight deal with Sears Canada Inc. produced a building which might be converted into housing, but the lease does not allow them to even start looking at its convertibility for another

five or seven years, and in the meantime they pay rent on this warehouse.

This was accepted by council as a suitable alternative for providing affordable housing as part of the Bay-Adelaide project. This kind of distortion of the official plan is only too common among other municipalities in the Golden Horseshoe area and possibly in other parts of the province, and the Planning Act seems to be powerless to stop this kind of manipulation.

I even questioned whether all the provisions of the act were followed when this atrocity went through in the city of Toronto. Was adequate notice of public meetings given to allow ratepayers' groups and housing advocates to appear to make their case against such a rape of the official plan, especially in the middle of an election campaign when a lot of the people would be involved with trying to upset the council?

Is it legitimate for municipal councils to consider such applications for development in the midst of a municipal election campaign, when some of those voting may not be re-elected? Yet they are binding the future council to giveaways of hundreds of millions of dollars to those developers, and they are denying future councils land that might be available for affordable housing if they give it away in the middle of an election campaign.

In fact, the lack of land for nonprofit affordable housing, certainly in the Metropolitan Toronto area, is largely a result of the bidding up of land in the city and the Metro area and the lack of a land speculation tax to stop that bidding up. As a result, there are all sorts of nonprofit groups ready to build. I think they have their plans in to the Minister of Housing and they have been approved but they cannot find land. The Minister of Housing does not seem to be able to find it for them; or if she does, she finds it in great megaprojects like the St. Lawrence Centre announcement, where we still do not know whether there will be any affordable housing as part of the deal. We just know that there is a block of land to be set aside for development.

There are no guidelines as to whether they will allow some of the land to go to private developers who will then produce possibly single-family or multiple-family dwellings, but there will be a bonus to the person who gets the first unit, if the province subsidizes that purchase. But as soon as the unit is passed to a private owner, he will be very much tempted to take advantage of this housing speculation that is going on in Toronto and sell the unit, so all future users of these units

will not be any better off than those competing in the housing market in Toronto right now.

I think the Municipal Act or the Planning Act should prohibit decisions on major development proposals during the two months before a municipal election; nor should councils be able to give notice of the necessary public meetings for changes in the official plan or the zoning prior to the end of the election period. I think this would perhaps slow down some of these very expensive deals that have gone through with almost no publicity and very little opportunity for citizens to express their concerns about what is happening to housing in the major cities of the Golden Horseshoe.

Mr. Beer: I believe the issue we have before us this afternoon is certainly one which I and my colleagues treat most seriously, because whenever accusations of one kind are made about how matters of public policy are handled, particularly in the area of development, this has to be of serious concern.

At the same time, because of that fact, I think it is incumbent upon the government, incumbent upon all of us, as legislators, to be extremely careful how we then proceed in dealing with the issues that come before us.

It seems to me, in looking at the motion which our colleague the member for Markham has put forward, that there are two elements, each of which really needs to be dealt with in a separate way, the one from the other.

One element is the planning process, of course, and concerns that we, as members, and that municipalities, nonprofit groups and developers may have with how that process works. The second element relates to the phrasing of the serious allegations that have been made and how those should be handled.

I think it is here, in looking at the motion in terms of those two elements, that we must be very careful, and I want to begin by looking at what we, as a government, have done in dealing with the question of allegations.

One of things which we state very clearly, as a country which is in part governed, if you will, by the common law, is that we feel it is very, very important to work by due process. We say that a person is innocent until proven guilty and that we must, as we proceed, ensure that the individual rights of people, of whatever background, are protected.

So in this instance, as in the case of some others, what the government has done is ask the Ontario Provincial Police and York Regional Police to go in and look at several matters; and if,

in their judgement, criminal charges should be laid, then those will be laid.

But that, as an issue, is separate and distinct from the broader question of what we should be doing with the overall planning process and how we should handle that.

We have to make the distinction, because we have seen from time to time that broad general inquiries without a specific and clear-cut mandate can, in effect, lead to fishing expeditions where people can be unduly harmed and where reputations can be ruined for acts which they did not commit but simply the statement of it can lead to all kinds of problems which we have to protect against.

I think the other thing that emerges from this sort of approach can be that—if we look, right now we are in the middle of municipal and school board elections in York region, as we are in other parts of the province. Many good people have come forward to present themselves to run for these positions.

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As they go from door to door and as they talk with the electorate, I think these are people like those of us in this House, in other municipalities and in Ottawa, who are seeking to be elected so they can do good things for their communities. They want to help their communities. That is the motivation for why they got involved. It needs to be underlined that there is no difference within York region, Peel, Durham or any other place in the province in terms of the motivation that brings those people forward.

The first thing we have said, and the minister and the Premier have said it clearly, is that if there are criminal acts, if there are illegal acts that have taken place, they will emerge through the Ontario Provincial Police and the York region investigation, and charges will be laid.

On the second issue, in proceeding with a public inquiry on the municipal planning process, we would want to make sure that it in fact concentrated on that process. It may well be that following these other investigations, we will decide that is what we ought to do. There has been no suggestion, and no one has stated that this has been examined and ruled out. It is the timing, the order, the way in which these things are done to ensure due process is followed that becomes terribly important.

As the minister and others have stated, the ongoing process of dealing with the Planning Act, of dealing with the planning process, is not one that is not being addressed and is not being dealt with. There are a number of things that have

occurred to improve the planning process in response to communities, in response to nonprofit organizations, in response to municipal councils and in response to regional councils.

Indeed, during this past year, this government through the action of the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Housing have tried to come together with the councils in the rapid growth areas to try to define ways to improve the planning process, so that the affordable housing we need can be brought on stream much sooner. By bringing it on sooner, it means we are going to bring it in cheaper.

Those actions have been, and with reason, roundly applauded by all involved in the housing area, regardless of whether one is a developer or trying to set up a nonprofit co-op. We know that the sooner we can take an idea for a project through the system and get it built, the better will be the availability of the housing we require.

There are a lot of things we have said we want to change in that process, in cutting municipal red tape and in cutting provincial red tape. Those are things we do not need to wait to do. We can proceed to deal with those as they arise. That is the way the government has been proceeding.

The focus has, of course, been on housing and the focus is in the areas where the population is coming. If we looks at York region, we know that the population in that region is growing by some 25,000 or 26,000 people this year, which represents approximately a quarter of the immigrants and migrants who come into our province. Those of us living in that area have to be terribly concerned about how quickly we can bring in new housing projects.

The fact that we try to streamline a system, the fact that we try to ensure there is a system whereby nonprofit organizations and municipalities can work closely with the provincial government to speed up that process is, it seems to me, terribly important and worth while, and does not suggest any kind of illegal activity in and of itself.

In looking at this issue, and in looking at the motion the member has brought forward, one recognizes that there are problems, that there are difficulties in the process we are addressing, and at the same time that there are a series of other issues which are linked to the possibility of illegal acts and there is a way of addressing those in a proper fashion.

To proceed willy-nilly with a wide-open inquiry will not necessarily bring us the information we require in trying to deal with these ongoing issues. For the people in York region,

we want to ensure that if someone has broken the law, if someone has committed an illegal act, he will, after the OPP-York regional investigation, in fact be brought to justice.

In looking at how we can improve the planning process, that is something we have to deal with separately outside the context of what has been happening here, so we can ensure that when we bring about changes they are brought about to make for a much better and more effective process, so we get the housing and development we need to ensure that all residents and all citizens in this province have the housing they need.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I want to make reference to a note you passed to my colleague. I want to indicate to you that although I do represent a rural riding, before I enter the House I make sure I clean my shoes. Only you and my seatmate will understand that.

I want to offer a different perspective in terms of this debate. It does deal with the fact that my riding is essentially a rural riding. It is a bit of a different perspective. At the same time, I want to compliment my colleague the member for Markham for introducing this resolution and ensuring that this matter is debated in the Legislature today because of its urgency, an urgency that certainly has not to this point been recognized by the government of the day.

One of the things I think should be discussed at length, in terms of this whole debate, is the question of the land use guidelines and the development of policy in respect to land use for inclusion in the Planning Act.

Our caucus met today with representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which met yesterday with the cabinet and I am sure with the New Democratic Party caucus at some point this week. One of the things we talked about was the land use guidelines and their concern and the concern I think of most members of this House: the problem of rapidly disappearing quality farm land in this province.

It is certainly not a new issue. This is something which has been talked about for many years, decades perhaps, but we certainly do not seem to be coming up with any resolution to the problem. I do not pretend to be an expert in this area but I know from driving in the Markham area and areas surrounding Metro the alarm I have felt in seeing how this quality agricultural land is being gobbled up by developers.

My leader has raised the question, as has the leader of the official opposition, in respect to the development in Richmond Hill, where I think

approximately 1,000 acres of class 1 land is being opened up for residential development. When that matter was raised in the House by my leader, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) indicated that he was not supportive of the proposal at cabinet but that he lost the battle, he lost the day in cabinet.

I think it would be interesting to know, as the Minister of Agriculture was so forthcoming in respect to this matter and that particular approval, just what the position of the Minister of Municipal Affairs was when that was before cabinet. I think it would be relevant to this debate and relevant to this whole question of fast-tracking certain proposals which come before cabinet.

1650

We talk about cabinet secrecy, and to some extent that is changing in this country. I know the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation, Claude Bennett, recently appeared in a civil case in Toronto dealing with questions about Minaki Lodge. I think other cabinet officials were subpoenaed and testified before that hearing as well. In the Donald Marshall inquiry in Nova Scotia, Premier Buchanan did agree to allow members of the executive council to appear before that inquiry under oath and give testimony about deliberations of cabinet with respect to the Marshall case.

This one certainly ties into this whole question of the cloud hanging over what is happening with respect to York region and how this particular development—and I think we can relate it to other developments taking place there—was dealt with within cabinet itself. The fact is that the Minister of Agriculture and Food has clearly pointed out in this House that he was opposed but was overruled.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I want to make a clarification. Following that statement by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, he told the press outside that it did not come to cabinet, and that was clarified at that time.

Mr. Runciman: I did not read of that. Certainly that did not get the coverage it obviously would have merited. However, the minister obviously is confused and was advised by members of the Office of the Premier, apparently, in a speedy fashion, to correct that when he left the safety of the chambers. Obviously something happened. I think this raises even more questions.

The fact is that the minister has indicated that in some way, shape or form he was overruled by

his cabinet colleagues, perhaps by the Premier's office, perhaps by other influential forces surrounding or within the Premier's office. I do not know. As I said, it simply raises more questions than it answers, with respect.

Again, I talked about cabinet secrecy. Obviously if this debate did not take place within cabinet, there should be no difficulty whatsoever. If indeed we accept the proposition of the member for Markham and our party, and I suspect the official opposition as well, that a public inquiry be held as quickly as possible, the minister should have no problem. He would be called upon, I am sure, to testify before it as to how this decision was arrived at.

Obviously this is something I personally will want to pursue with my caucus. If the minister has taken a different position than the one he took in this House, it is something that should be pursued very actively and vigorously within these chambers at the next opportunity.

I want to talk about a couple of things. I do not have very much time.

We talk about urban sprawl and how we are going to deal with this whole question of development within this province. I know the Ontario Federation of Agriculture brought to our attention when the minister—and I am not sure what minister was responsible for this; it may have been the Minister of Municipal Affairs—made the announcement that there was a new severance policy being developed.

Since that announcement was made, governments across this province have been inundated with severance applications. I know this is a dicey question in terms of severances if you live in a rural area. There are lots of farmers out there who do not want to lose the right to have one or two severances. At the same time, I think when the government makes announcements like this, it has to look beyond the publicity to the ramifications of this kind of announcement.

I think that when we are dealing with prime agricultural land, we are dealing with a reaction on the part of many people right across this province: "Well, let's make sure we get in there and get the goodies out before the government can do something to stop it." When they make an announcement like this, perhaps it would be appropriate to apply some sort of freeze, some sort of process whereby municipalities across the province, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, etc., were not going to be inundated with innumerable severance applications.

I do not know how we deal with this question, but something has to be done and done, I think, in

the very near future. British Columbia had an approach a number of years ago about applying some sort of freeze in terms of agricultural land and I think to some degree it has had success with that. It was brought in by, in all fairness, an NDP government in British Columbia, and I do not believe it has been disbanded by subsequent Social Credit governments. Obviously there is some merit to the program, and perhaps it is something the current government should be looking at.

In any event, we have some difficulty with simply waiting for an OPP investigation. I am sure others have talked about the Wyda investigation; we are still waiting for a report on that. There are countless other numbers of OPP investigations. The OPP is seriously understaffed in a whole range of areas across this province, and we are not going to get the answers and we are not going to get them quickly.

We have left a cloud of suspicion over a great number of people in York region. The planning process across the province is, as my colleague suggested earlier in question period, unsettled to say the least. I think the government has a responsibility to address this and to address it quickly. The best way to do it is to accept my colleague's suggestion and act quickly.

Mr. Philip: I was reminded this morning, when my colleagues and I in the New Democratic caucus met with representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, how times sometimes do not change.

In 1975, when I was an employee of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, we were calling for some of the same things they are in fact expressing concerns about today—about land use policy or the lack of land use policy and about any kind of reasonable planning that will protect certain communities and certain farm industries. Thirteen years later we are still faced with the same kinds of issues, and the federation of agriculture is still appearing before politicians expressing concerns, perhaps in a different form but none the less expressing similar concerns.

The issues we are debating today go beyond what can be covered by a police inquiry. The focus of a criminal investigation is fairly narrow and the courts are restricted to a very polarized situation, one that has to deal with right or wrong, with guilt or innocence; one that does not deal with solutions and in fact on many occasions will not even deal with causes unless the causes are of a criminal nature.

You have a situation where some of the greatest abuses can be committed, but unless you

can find somebody's hand in the cookie jar, stealing, then the conclusion is one of innocence. I do not think that solves the problems that have been coming to light in the particular region that has stimulated this debate but that are not new to this House or indeed new to this government.

The arguments used by the Liberal members are, I think, somewhat the same arguments that were used by the former Conservative Attorney General, Roy McMurtry, at the time Liberals and New Democrats were arguing for an inquiry into Re-Mor/Astra Trust.

At that time, the statement was: "All is well. There is a criminal investigation. For heaven's sake, you stand the chance of becoming sub judice. You stand the chance of interfering in a criminal case. You stand the chance of interfering in a criminal investigation. You stand the chance of interfering in the legitimate objective evaluation by our courts."

We had that inquiry, and of course none of those things happened. There was a court case subsequent to that, there were charges laid and people went to jail, as I recall. The courts were not in any way frustrated by our inquiry.

What we are really dealing with goes beyond criminal matters and deals with the whole problem of policy. I say to the Minister of Municipal Affairs that his solution is simply and plainly inadequate. In his press release of November 4 he said he was going to give grants to municipalities to conduct an information workshop for official plan review and then announced that Metropolitan Toronto is getting some \$6,275. Well, whoopee! They are going to do one heck of an inquiry for \$6,275.

1700

If you look at the situation described so well by Jock Ferguson and Dawn King in the *Globe and Mail*, you see that they have given, I think, a fairly good analysis of some of the major issues. They point out in their article written on November 3:

"The Ontario government bears much of the blame for real estate developers taking over effective control of the planning process in the fast-growing Metro Toronto area.

"That was the conclusion of a 10-month investigation by the *Globe and Mail* into relationships between municipal politicians and real estate developers in York region north of Metro.

"The *Globe* found evidence of conflicts of interest, breach of trust, campaign financing irregularities, cash payoffs and outright corrup-

tion involving politicians and several people in the development and building industries."

What we are dealing with is two separate issues. We are dealing with an allegation of possible criminal wrongdoing, criminal acts, but we are also dealing with the problem of omission by this government in the planning process or in setting up the processes that will lessen the kinds of objectives that planning needs if we are going to have a systematic, fair and as incorruptible a process as possible.

A number of the constituents I have had over the years have moved into this area. They come back to see me from time to time, and indeed some of the people who have businesses in the riding I represent have moved up into this area. For the last couple of years they have been coming to me and saying: "You know, there's something wrong here. It just doesn't feel right. We need an airing. We need a public inquiry. We need something." I have been saying to them, "Give me some more information so I can go to the Attorney General, to the Legislature, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to the Minister of Housing and to my own caucus and justify some kind of public inquiry, an airing of what's going on."

There is an unease out there that only a public inquiry will cover. Some of the allegations we look at may not be of a criminal nature, but that does not mean they are not of a serious nature. There are not just the errors of omission by the government in terms of the planning process; indeed, if you look at some of the articles, you see allegations that may not be of a criminal nature but may certainly be of a serious nature.

I give the instance of the allegation that inspectors who laid too many complaints against builders were moved into other projects, they said, without discussion or warning. That kind of allegation against a public servant working for the government of Ontario would result in an inquiry by the Provincial Auditor, with a resulting public inquiry by the standing committee on public accounts and a full airing of the issue.

That same kind of allegation, if it happens to exist at a municipal level, is no less serious, is no less open to scrutiny, is no less important and is no less open to the need for some kind of recommendations to correct the situation, if this is what is happening, and indeed to see that it is not repeated in other municipalities.

What we have seen over the years is a great deal of apathy or lack of action on the part of both the Conservative government and the present

Liberal government in terms of land use policies, in terms of setting up the parameters for the development of land, which can make people an awful lot of money, and directly relates to the high cost of housing in the general Metropolitan Toronto area.

When we get into questions like that, we are dealing with more than somebody making a buck under the table in an illegal manner. What we are dealing with is a process that clearly is not working. What we are dealing with is a need for a public inquiry which will air that process, find out what is going on and come up with solutions.

Those who are innocent, those who are diligent, those who are working hard in the development industry or as municipal public servants in some form have a right to a public inquiry which will clear the air. A criminal inquiry will simply say that some people have been found guilty of a serious offence, but that in no way clears the air for all the others; they are still under suspicion. People will go away and say, "They didn't catch them, but there's still an impropriety."

A public inquiry will deal with that. It will deal with the processes and it will also help those diligent public servants at municipal or other levels who are working out there and who are frustrated, who want their names cleared. But also some changes are needed so they know what the rules are and they can enforce them and so we can have a systematic system of planning land use and housing in this province.

Mr. Brandt: I am delighted to have an opportunity to engage in this debate, which we in this party feel is a very—

Hon. Mr. Eakins: It's the turn of the member for Durham York, (Mr. Ballinger) isn't it?

Mr. Brandt: Perhaps I can just explain, Mr. Speaker. The agreement of the government party allowed me to go in this position at this time due to other time pressures I had. With your consent and agreement, I will proceed.

We have called for a full public inquiry into the matter of planning and more specifically some of the activities which have gone on in connection with York region, because we feel very sincerely—and I am pleased the minister is in the House today to hear our comments—that what has occurred up until now is inadequate in terms of a government response.

As I indicated to the minister in the questions I raised in the House earlier today, we feel it is also most important that we restore public confidence in the system of planning and development in this particular province. We say that not because of

any allegations or charges that have been levelled by members of the opposition but quite frankly because of a number of news stories which have been released recently indicating that there is a tremendous number of people who are currently very frustrated, very concerned and, I might add, very annoyed about the way the process is working, not only in York region but in some other isolated but important parts of the province.

When you have a fast-growing region like York, the situation is entirely different than it is perhaps in my own municipality, where I spent 10 years in planning. I spent many years on a planning board, as a member of council and as a mayor of that community. In many of the communities represented by the members in this Legislative Assembly today, their problem is attracting an adequate amount of growth to keep a viable and sufficient assessment base in their community. It is an entirely different ball game than the sort of thing which is being experienced in what is perhaps the fastest-growing sector of the entire country.

What has happened in that particular area is that we have, by all accounts, a tremendously focused concentration of development among a very few people. That raises some serious questions in our minds which perhaps the government can answer, but if the government cannot answer them, we are frankly left with no other alternative, we are left with no other avenue of approach to use in this assembly but to ask it to consider an inquiry as a method by which we can get to the bottom of what we consider to be some very important matters.

Let me tell the minister some of the questions we want answers to and some of the things we feel are of importance to the opposition. Certainly they should be of importance to the government. As well, they are of very real importance to the people of Ontario.

Through a series of questions we have raised with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, we have been advised by the responses of the respective ministers that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food rejected the application in Richmond Hill for development there because it did not comply with the guidelines of the government in connection with the Food Land Guidelines that are supposed to be followed. In some fashion, this was overturned by cabinet.

1710

It raises a question in our mind as to whether those—

Interjection.

Mr. Brandt: If that is incorrect, I am only telling members that is the impression I received from the minister.

Mr. Polsinelli: That was clarified earlier.

Mr. Brandt: If it was clarified, it certainly was not while I was here, but that was the impression that was left. There was a lot of confusion around that. If, in fact, there has been a clarification, it raises a whole series of additional questions such as how this particular development could have been approved when one recognizes the very stringent guidelines of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

I want to move off that for a moment, and if time allows, I will come back to that because I think it is an important matter.

I also want to have a question answered in connection with the way in which the capacity of the York regional trunk line is being allocated. There have been public allegations made, which have not been answered, which indicate that some developers, through some methodology that is being used, are able to get allocations of capacity in that area where other developers have to wait for many years and question the process. Again, I am not making any unfounded allegations. I am simply saying that there are people who are frustrated by the fact that others seem to be moved more quickly to the front of the line while others sit and wait with their nose pressed to the window for seven or eight years with a development and cannot seem to find capacity in that same line.

I have more than a modest and passing interest in the York line because I was the Minister of the Environment when it was originally constructed. It was constructed for the precise purpose of opening up that region to development. What is happening there is not something that is accidental, unexpected, or in some fashion a surprise. It was expected to happen and it is happening. The question is, is it happening in a planned and orderly fashion, and is it happening in a fair and equitable and balanced way for all of the players, all of the municipalities, and in a way in which the government of the day can be satisfied that all of the rules of the ball game are being adequately followed?

I have some concerns, and I think very real concerns, by way of my third question, and that is the overall planning for the region. I look at it just as an interested participant in the political process. When you start getting into the leap-frogging of developments, when you start leaving undeveloped lands and start reaching out into other areas further removed and developing

those lands, it raises a question in my mind as to whether that development is—recognizing the size and the scope of these developments—happening in a way that is appropriate to the planning process of Ontario. We are talking about hundreds upon hundreds of homes that are under construction or have already been constructed.

Mr. Polsinelli: Under your plan, whose responsibility is it?

Mr. Brandt: I will come to that. I will be very happy to respond to the member, but I only have three minutes.

With respect to estate lots: is it in fact appropriate under the Food Land Guidelines that low-density estate lots be established on prime farm land? One of the criteria that we have is that should not be allowed to happen, that you should look for alternative land or have higher densities. I raise that by way of question.

I raise the question, should there be a provincial responsibility in certain select instances—and I would cite Belleville as an instance or perhaps even York region—under the Planning Act and under the process that we follow within our current legislation, amended to allow charges to be brought where there are indications of conflict of interest by municipally elected leaders or, I might add, municipally appointed officials, because they are sometimes much more involved than the elected people are? They actually come up with the engineering studies that determine what the allocations in that trunk line are going to be.

I am speaking to seasoned politicians here. They know how the process works. They know how it can be bent at times to accommodate certain circumstances, not necessarily in an unfair, illegal fashion, but in order to do what you think is right for the community. All I am saying with respect to this matter is that these questions are not being answered.

I would call to the minister's attention two recent editorials, one in the *Globe and Mail* and one in the *Toronto Star*. I am sure that his clipping service has provided these editorials to him, but what they have said essentially is this: Either call for an inquiry to clear the air on this matter—which is what my party is proposing in the context of this emergency debate we are holding this afternoon—or, alternatively, there must be more involvement by his ministry in the direct affairs of some municipalities.

The municipalities operate under permissive legislation. They do not operate in any sort of removed fashion from provincial control. It is the

legislation that the minister provides them with that allows them to do certain things. Whether it be planning, the approval process, the committee of adjustment, all of those things are allowed by the province.

As well, I think, in the minister's case, it would be more than welcomed in terms of a response, if he were to move towards having a heavier hand where it is necessary and where there are indications of a problem and perhaps—I say perhaps—move on conflict-of-interest charges when those are justified. I do not say that he should do that without due consideration of the circumstances at hand, but I say there are situations where I do not think it should be left totally in the hands of private citizens to bring charges against elected officials.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, if I may be given just a few seconds, I say with respect that we are not doing this for political reasons but to attempt to work with the government co-operatively to improve the process so that there are no questions out there in regard to how fair, balanced and equitable that process is.

Thank you very much for your indulgence.

Mr. Ballinger: I am pleased to be here in the House today to participate in this debate. I did not think the honourable leader of the third party would be quiet long enough so I could jump in, but I am pleased to be here.

One of the things that I have learned since my attendance in the Legislature from last September is that from time to time the opposition members, at their sort of whim, believe that they should get involved with emergency debates or what they believe are emergency debates of the day.

I would like to say to all members of the House that today I find it very interesting that we are doing an emergency debate on the suggested inquiry for the three regions of York, Peel and Durham. I represent the riding of Durham-York so since my riding is involved in that, I certainly want to participate in the debate.

I cannot believe that we are even doing this today. Yesterday, we were doing an emergency debate on free trade and tomorrow I am sure we will do something on something else.

One of the things I find is that it really causes the legislative process in the House to break down. I can recall that we have gone through bell-ringing here, we have gone through endless readings of petitions, and when we get to the legislative process to get involved with specific

pieces of legislation, we never seem to have the time to debate those specific pieces of legislation. I can recall the stacking of the bills on June 29; we stacked all the bills so that everybody could leave this fine institution for our summer holidays.

What bothers me as a new member of the Legislature is that during that process, had we not gone through a lot of wasted time, we could have spent the time on those bills necessary to do what each and every one of us as a party has to do to get our positions across.

Now, we are discussing an inquiry into the region.

Mrs. Marland: He is not speaking to the bill.
1720

Mr. Ballinger: I am coming to that. The member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) has a lot of nerve, accusing me of not speaking to the bill. If there was ever a member in this House who does not speak directly to the bill, to any bill, it certainly is the member of Mississauga South.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We are not on a bill.

Mr. Ballinger: Thank you, member for Windsor-Riverside.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ballinger: The specific resolution from the member for Markham relates to the three regions surrounding the Metropolitan Toronto area. I am surprised, if he really believes that, why he did not just throw in the entire Golden Horseshoe. I cannot believe, if he really believes what he is saying, that we should only be discussing York, Peel and Durham regions.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is for tomorrow.

Mr. Ballinger: I figured that, and then the next day. I can say that we will all be here, working through Christmas because we have wasted so much time in this Legislature, when we should be dealing with good, positive legislation, rather than just dealing days at a time with particular resolutions like this, because they happen to be the crisis of the day.

I cannot wait, as a member of the government, to be in here next week to see what crisis might arise out there; one of the members from either of the official opposition parties will believe it is so worthy that we must have an emergency debate.

In Ontario we should be very proud of the fact that we have one of the most open planning processes of any province in Canada. All of the debates that are talked about, with official plan

amendments and rezonings, are all done in public. None of that stuff is done behind closed doors. All of the accusations that are being made in here by the opposition, and the innuendos that are made by some of the press, are simply not true.

There is a planning process in place in this province. As a mayor of a municipality I have participated for a decade in that planning process. It is a good process. It is effective and it does work. One of the problems that we have as a government, is that the opposition is saying that there is a whole bunch of terrible things happening out there in Ontario, and we, as a government, are not doing anything about it. That is just not true. The opposition would like us to have an inquiry, when in fact we do not even know what the results of the police investigation are yet. Why do we not spend a whole pile of provincial money, taxpayers' money, and have a big inquiry? Why do we not inquire into the whole province of Ontario, if all these bad things are happening out there?

In this province we have people duly elected at the local level, and they have the right to plan under the Planning Act for their own municipality. They are open to the public. They are accountable to the public. Everybody here in the opposition says, "They are not accountable. They are local politicians, you cannot trust them. They are doing something wrong. They are all in the pockets of developers. They are all a bunch of bad guys."

Maybe we should do away with municipal government altogether. Why are people not asking about us in here, at this level of politics? I, as a member of the Legislature, do not believe for a second the accusations. With one broad brush every local municipality in Ontario has been pasted up as the bad guy. That is absolutely wrong. Some of the greatest people that I have ever worked with in my entire brief life have been at the local level, hardworking, dedicated, interested, caring about their communities. What are we doing in here today? Slamdunking them, the opposition is, every opportunity they get. "Let's slamdunk another mayor in Ontario. Let's ruin their reputations. Let's spoil their families." The simplest thing one can do in the opposition is bang the living daylight out of everybody one can get one's hands on.

Some of the most dedicated politicians are at the local level. They are not in this forum right here. The most accountable politicians in this province are at the local level. They are not in here.

It is really interesting. The other day in this Legislature, the leader of the third party got up and asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food about a phone call he received from a mayor. I want to tell the folks in here, there is not a mayor in Ontario who, at one time or another, has not phoned almost every minister of the crown—for his community, not for himself; in the best interests of his community. What they are doing is for their communities, not for themselves. The innuendoes and the accusations whereby we broad-brush everybody are not fair. This government has the police investigation under way.

Mr. Mackenzie: Do you have high blood pressure?

Mr. Ballinger: Not at all, I do not have high blood pressure. I am sick and tired of people at the municipal level, on a constant basis, being banged around and slamdunked because nobody believes them.

I want to thank the member for Mississauga South for this note. It is the nicest note that she has ever given me.

In closing, I would like to say that, as we are all here today, I look forward to Christmas-time, when we all will want to get home to our families. We will not be able to do that. We will have run out of time, because each day in here we deal with something that does not relate to the legislation that is currently before us.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: In his opinion.

Mr. Ballinger: That is my opinion. The member is absolutely right. Based on the past year I have been here, it happens to be an actual fact. As the member for Durham-York, whose riding is split between both regions, I will gleefully await the police investigation.

Mr. Laughren: I will attempt to slow down the pace a bit and deal with the issue as I understand it. I do understand why the Conservative Party has moved this emergency resolution; the problem is truly serious. What bothers me about the resolution, however, is that it deals with the symptom of the overall problem. Until the government understands that as long as it sits on the sidelines and watches the price of land and the price of housing skyrocket and does nothing about it, then we are going to have these problems occurring and recurring. I think it is inevitable.

Given the fact that we live in a more or less free enterprise system, there is nothing wrong with the ethic that is out there now in the minds of most people that there is nothing wrong with making a profit on the sale of land or the sale of

homes. That is the prevailing ethic out there. It is espoused by this government and it is espoused by the party that has moved this emergency resolution.

Until we get at the problem of speculation on land, we are going to have irresistible temptations given to people who are in a position to benefit from the escalating costs.

It is not just those of us in this party who are aware of the problem. Last April in *Time* magazine, a United States publication, the following was stated: "Canada's major metropolis, Toronto, is on its way to becoming the hottest real estate market in North America...." There are "nearly 1,000 new residents every week.... The odour of profit also carries. Says developer Terry Martel, 'Where else can you put \$40,000 down on a \$160,000 investment and sell it two years later for \$250,000?'" As long as there is a situation where those kinds of obscene profits are possible, we are going to have people jumping into that market and taking advantage of it. I would say that the government is responsible for allowing that to happen, for allowing those irresistible temptations to continue to be there.

1730

Mr. Reycraft: Profit isn't a dirty word.

Mr. Laughren: We are not just talking about profits. We are not just talking about free enterprise. We are talking about speculation in the housing market. That is what we are talking about.

As long as the government allows those obscene profits on land development, it is going to get these problems again and again and again, and it will wonder why it cannot do anything about it, why it does not stop and why there are emergency resolutions in this place.

So the government has a public inquiry. How will a public inquiry resolve the problem the next time? Is it going to have a public inquiry every time? We support it because there is nothing else in its place. But in the long haul, the solution is not a never-ending series of public inquiries. In the long haul, the answer is an end to the speculation on land and homes. Until the government reaches that conclusion and does something about it, it has no reason to believe this will not continue; absolutely no reason at all.

The amount of profit that is available is absolutely incredible. There is one development north of here where they are building 3,000 homes and they anticipate there will be a \$300-million profit from that development—a \$300-million profit from 3,000 homes. Do some

very simple arithmetic. That comes out to a \$100,000 profit per home.

Mr. Reycraft: What is the capital investment?

Mr. Laughren: And why is the capital investment so high? Because the government has allowed the land to escalate through speculation. That is begging the question. Why should there be \$100,000 profit on a home? They should answer that question. It makes no sense whatsoever. Here there is a developer who is going to make \$300 million net profit from the development of land for 3,000 homes; \$100,000 per house for 3,000 houses comes out to \$300 million.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They don't think there is anything wrong with that.

Mr. Laughren: As long as the government thinks there is nothing wrong with that, then there are going to be problems like this. The temptation is irresistible because the amount of money is so much. That is why the government is in this pickle and that is why it will get into this pickle again and again and again.

Sure, farmers are being made instant millionaires, but are the farmers the ones who are really making the big bucks? No, it is the developers who are making the big bucks. Some day, the government is going to have to explain to me what it is that justifies that increase in the price of the home. It is the same home, with no additional services added to it, no additional sewer and water services, with simply an increase in price. There is no value added whatsoever, just an increase in price.

How, even under the government's precious free enterprise system, does it justify that, when we are talking about homes? We are not talking about speculation in hula hoops; we are talking about homes where people want to live. As long as the government sees nothing wrong with that system, then it is asking for an increasing number of examples such as this. It is asking for it because the prices and the rewards are so rich.

We have talked to the Treasurer on numerous occasions about bringing in some kind of land speculation or housing speculation tax and he will not do it. I do not know why he will not do it. In 1974, when the Treasurer was the leader of the Liberal Party, this is what he said when the Tories, of all people, brought in a land speculation tax.

He said, "Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in favour of the principle of this bill, which is to tax unconscionable profits in land speculation....I support the principle of this bill in that it will tax that quick profit, with these two reservations: I

believe that the tax should be 100 per cent on these unconscionable and speculative profits and I do not agree with what the minister has set forward as his designation of a profiteer or a speculator."

At that time, the Treasurer was complaining that speculators were turning over houses and making a \$10,000 profit. The speculators would turn up their noses at a \$10,000 profit in today's market in Metropolitan Toronto. The whole thing is ridiculous. What does the Premier say? He says it is a sweet headache. He says, "Well, the problem's probably peaked," or he says, "Well, we think it's going to level off and perhaps the level of increase will go down."

The other point about the land speculation tax, of course, is that it is not designed to increase a lot of revenues. It is not a tax grab. It is designed to cool off the market. In 1973, the average Metro Toronto house price increased 24.9 per cent. In 1974, it increased 30 per cent. The speculation tax was brought in and in the following two years, in 1975, increases were 9 per cent, and then in 1976, 6.6 per cent. From 25 per cent and 30 per cent during the two previous years, after the introduction of the speculation tax, it dropped to 9 and 6.6 per cent respectively, so it does work. It is a deterrent to speculation. It is not meant as a tax grab.

Until this government understands that having those kinds of speculative increases going on out there is an obscenity, it is going to continue. Why would it not continue? Why would all those developers not be out there making money as fast as they can and turning over their property as quickly as they can? That is the name of the game. They are not breaking the rules in most cases. One company is paying the developer a \$7-million bonus. I ask what kind of system the government is trying to put in place in this province, where it is encouraging that kind of speculation in land and in homes? It is fundamentally wrong.

I will conclude by simply saying to those members that they should not come whining into this place about everybody being smeared with accusations of wrongdoing. As long as they are prepared to sit back and allow the speculation on land and the speculation on housing to continue, they deserve every broad brush they get from anybody in the public.

Mr. Pollock: I am pleased to take part in this debate. There are a few things I would like to put on the record. One of my major concerns is the disappearance of prime farm land in this province. I have heard it stated that from the CN

Tower you can see a major block of prime farm land on a good day and already 37 per cent of that prime farm land is lost. This statement was made two years ago, so I imagine now it is up to 40 or 45 per cent because that is where the major development is taking place in this province, in York region, out in Mississauga and those places. As I say, it is a major concern to me.

The talk has been about politicians at the local level not being concerned. They are concerned, but basically those people are concerned about their own municipalities. When you get people in the Madoc area or in the Bancroft area seeing some of this prime farm land going for development up here, why should they be concerned about class 4 and class 5 land going for a house when there is nothing being done about using up the prime farm land right around this major metropolitan area?

I was a local politician at one time and I might just say that both my brothers are running for office on the local level in the municipal elections coming up, and I hope they are successful. I certainly hope they make out all right.

1740

Mr. Mahoney: Are they Tories?

Mr. Pollock: What does the member think? I mentioned this fact that they are using up the prime farm land around Toronto. Some of these developers and some of the politicians around this area say, "Where are they supposed to build?" I can tell members where they can build. They can build down in Prince Edward-Lennox. There are literally thousands of acres of flat rock there which have not got two or three inches of topsoil on them. There is no reason why they cannot build on that. Sure, they might have to be subsidized, but there is no reason why they cannot build on some of that land. The climate is excellent, and as I say, there is no reason.

The city of Belleville has been mentioned here a few times this afternoon. Well, I can tell members that the city of Belleville has an industrial park and that industrial park is built on some of the crappiest land in this country. Let's face it, the city of Belleville has done some pretty good planning.

Mr. Reycraft: The mayor of Belleville will be delighted to see that.

Mr. Faubert: Did you say it was crappy?

Mr. Pollock: No, do not mix me up or mix up the statement. I said their industrial park is built on some of the crappiest land in this province. It really is. It is built on nothing but flat rock, and I am sure the member for Prince Edward-Lennox

(Mr. MacDonald) will back me up on that. That is where some of these great big, sprawling plants should be built, on some of that flat rock.

Mr. South: Crappy land.

Mr. Pollock: The member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) knows there is all kinds of crappy land—that is what we usually call it out in the boondocks—and they could build on that kind of land and not on the prime farm land around Toronto here or some of the other big cities.

I just wanted to put a few of those things on the record. I think that there should be some wise planning done to protect our prime farm land and instead, build in these areas where there is all kinds of flat rock, sandy land and rough land, and use that kind of land rather than our prime farm land.

Mr. Mahoney: I am delighted to rise and speak to this—

Mr. Reycraft: Do you have crappy land?

Mr. Mahoney: No, we do not have any of that kind of land in Mississauga, not even in Mississauga South. It is all beautiful, prime, developable land, I should tell the member.

Mr. Faubert: How about the bog?

Mr. Mahoney: Well, the bog; that is another issue. The member does not want me to get into that, does he? He is supposed to be on our side. What is he bringing up that one for? Boy, some people get confused. Why does he not move over a little bit beside the member for Markham and then shoot that question? I do not want to bog down in this debate, because I would like to move on.

One of the reasons I am delighted to participate in this is my sincere feeling about the importance of municipal government and the importance of the planning process in this province.

I did not know when the member for Durham-York spoke whether this was a bill, an act, a motion or a movement, but whatever it is, I have it here and it refers to setting aside the business of this House. The opposition parties have been very successful in accomplishing that today. They have managed to delay very important legislation and to send this House off into a debate that they know full well, in contrast to what the honourable leader of the third party said, is purely a political charade on their part.

In fact, what is really being attempted here, and I do not think anyone would kid himself, is simply an attempt to delay other important legislation currently at committee that should be coming in here, perhaps even to delay Bill 113

and Bill 114 dealing with retail hours. I am not sure if that is part of the strategy of the members of the third party, in cahoots with the official opposition, but I suspect, given the broad-brush nature of this particular resolution, that the real agenda is not on the table for debate today.

In fact, if you read the resolution, it is so broad. We have had some unfortunate articles, press reports about unfortunate accusations, and I am sure we all hope, including the members opposite, that those accusations turn out to be false.

Mr. Breagh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I thought it was against the standing orders of the assembly to attribute motives to other members and I have just heard a considerable amount of that. I am somewhat surprised, since all of his caucus, as I was hearing the vote, voted for the emergency debate this afternoon and the government House leader spoke in favour of it. So I believe—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have listened very carefully. We all have different points of view.

Mr. Mahoney: We are getting wonderful advice over here. I thank the member for delaying my time by 30 or 40 seconds. The point is well taken. The honourable member for Oshawa is always quick to rise on what he perceives to be points of order and is usually quite knowledgeable in most instances about whether they are or are not.

I would suggest that if you read the resolution, in reality the members of the third party and the honourable member for Markham are really not looking for an inquiry, but rather for an inquisition. They are broad-brushing. He has even gone to the extent of including regions that were not mentioned in any of the press reports.

Mr. Cousens: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I take strong exception to the allegation this honourable member has made. That is not true and I am not calling for an inquisition.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wish all members would remember that each member has only 10 minutes to speak.

Mr. Mahoney: I do not mind that they get upset at my statements. I get upset at theirs. I was quite upset earlier at the venom that came across from the other side from my good friend the member for Mississauga South. I found it rather unusual and certainly not in keeping with the usual class and deportment that member shows, particularly in relationship to myself, who happened to serve on a municipal council with that same member for seven years. I consider

myself a very good personal friend. I was a little taken aback. However, I have had about an hour and a half to calm down and allow that to roll off my back and not to be too concerned about it and simply to consider the source.

I suggest that if you look at this resolution, it really does include regions that have not been investigated, that are not under any allegations by anyone. The member throws in the region of Peel. I do not understand that. I suggest the member for Mississauga South would agree with me when I say that in the region of Peel, we have without a doubt one of the finest planning processes in the entire province.

I am proud to say I served as chairman of a planning committee in the city of Mississauga for almost seven years, when we had that city grow from an original population of 120,000 in 1974 to a population today of 410,000. We did that by working hand in hand with the developers. How else are you going to develop? But anyone who knows, including the developers, the politicians and anybody in the business community in our city, will tell you that there is not a more difficult, more time-consuming, more thorough process to go through in the entire province than to try to bring land to development reality and to build in that particular city. We involve the community totally. Public meetings are held every night of the week. I held them when I was there. The honourable member opposite held them. The mayor holds them. All members hold them. We do our homework, because we have learned in our city what the planning process is all about.

The honourable member for Markham has impugned my community with this resolution by suggesting, inadvertently hopefully, but clearly, that the region of Peel should be included in some form of investigation they are recommending for a particular area of this province under allegations laid by a reporter. I take exception to that. We have a fine community that has been developed with great integrity through a very thorough process over the years.

I would just like to tell members a little about what is considered to be one of the finest development areas on the entire continent of North America, the community of Erin Mills. It is a community that has been developed through many years, going back to 1969.

1750

I must point out an example, by the way. The honourable leader of the third party—I wish he were here—said there was some question about lands being released outside of the process and that hodgepodge kind of thing. In 1969, it was

the Conservative government under the Honourable Bill Davis that approved release of land in the city of Mississauga to develop the Meadowvale community in the northwest quadrant and the Erin Mills community in the central west quadrant.

Both of those communities, I suggest, in 1969, were released totally out of context. It wound up that we had a problem to deal with in the early 1980s where we had some development here and some development there, and we had to try to tie it together. We were successful in tying it together through the residential development program, which is one of the most comprehensive documents ever drawn up in the history of this province to deal with the future of residential growth in a particular urban area. We have an official plan that is second to none in Ontario. We have constant reviews of our secondary and tertiary plans, and the members know it.

By suggesting that we should be going into some kind of inquiry on the planning process—because that is what this says, that the planning process in Ontario, not York which is the fouled area that is under some suspicion, the entire planning process for the province should be discredited and investigated. If that is not an inquisition, then I do not know what is. It is a disgrace, it is irresponsible, it is a waste of this House's time and it would be an utter and complete waste of the taxpayers' money in Ontario.

The honourable member knows it, his colleagues know it and they understand clearly that what they are doing is simply trying to bog down the proper administration under an open, accessible, hardworking government that understands the importance of municipal government in Ontario, that respects our municipal elected leaders and looks forward to their election on this Monday coming.

Mrs. Grier: I cannot hope to emulate the display of outraged indignation to which we have just been party. One is tempted to say, "Methinks he doth protest too much."

That indignation is the very reason we ought to agree to the resolution that is before us today, and is why I regret that this government does not see fit to have the kind of public inquiry that is called for by that resolution. The cloud of suspicion that the previous member says has been cast on all municipal politicians would be lifted if we had an open inquiry, if we had an opportunity to examine what has been happening and how the planning process, as it works in this province,

has contributed in a very real way to what has been happening in the regions of rapid growth.

There is a very real public cynicism about politicians at all levels and particularly about municipal politicians. That cynicism is only increased by the kinds of stories that have come out of York region. It is increased by the sight of rampant development on agricultural land and it is increased by the recognition by the public that one developer gets approval and that another developer is held up, and that there does not, in many cases, appear to be real, rational planning reasons for those particular approvals.

It is very important not only that any legal or criminal aspects of what is happening in those fast-growth regions be examined, but that we have an entire opportunity to review the planning process.

Nobody has denied that there are problems in York region, but there appears to be a real reluctance on the part of the government to examine why there are those problems, how they came about, and far more important, what we can do to change the process to make sure they no longer continue to happen.

My colleague the member for Nickel Belt has put his finger on the primary reason we have problems. That, of course, is the enormous profits to be made from land development, not only where there is raw land to be developed, but where there is redevelopment, such as in areas here in Metropolitan Toronto.

There is the case I raised today with the Minister of Housing of an old motel that has been there for a long time. It is being redeveloped into 440 luxury condominiums selling for over \$1 million each, a planning process that happened very quickly in the absence of a review of the official plan for the old established area where the development was occurring. Everybody wonders how it is happening so quickly and nobody begins to guess at the enormous profit to be reaped by that developer.

Time is money in the development business, as the member previously has said. There is great pressure on the developers to be friends with the planners, to be friends with the municipal politicians to try to get their projects through the pipeline faster than the next person's project. That inevitably leads to an appearance of many conflicts of interest, if not, in fact, real conflicts of interest. It is accepted as normal.

I remember once returning a bottle of liquor to a developer when I was a municipal politician and he was stunned that I should think there was anything wrong in accepting a bottle of liquor.

He assumed that was part of the process and that I should be glad to have his bottle of liquor. It was Cherry Heering and I cannot stand it, anyway.

What has to happen is a look at the planning process and a broadening of our understanding of what planning is, a broadening of definitions of the whole question of planning so that we talk about for whom we are planning, we talk about the kind of communities we are planning. We get away from the traditional aspect of assuming that because you own land, you therefore have a God-given right to the highest and best use of that land, otherwise translated into the most profit you can make on that land.

Sure we get concessions from developers, but we never demand too much because, after all, they are the land owners and that somehow gives them inalienable rights to do things with their land, regardless of what the long-term impact of what they are doing on that land may be; regardless of the kind of community that is ultimately going to be developed; regardless of the effect on the people who will live in that community.

We are not using a planning process that allows us to effectively plan for future generations. We do not have a planning process that allows us to do what this government says it wants to do, integrate social-planning decisions with land-use planning, integrate environmental decision-making with economic decision-making. We have the Brundtland report and lipservice paid to our acceptance of it. We have round tables set up with all stakeholders involved to talk about policies whereby we can integrate economic and environmental decisions, but when it gets down to brass tacks, when it gets down to looking at somebody's development, do we live up to that grand rhetoric and do we apply those principles? Of course we do not.

How would a public inquiry facilitate that? It would, as I have said, open up what has been happening, bring public scrutiny to bear not only by the newspaper, and I think the Globe and Mail has done us all a service by producing those articles, but it would allow the public to begin to gain some understanding of how the process actually works. It would allow us to perhaps address the question of public participation.

The member for Mississauga West says there are meetings every night of the week in his community. That is fine, but there are a lot of communities where that does not happen. The process by which we advise people of planning decisions is very obsolete for the 1980s—everybody within 1,000 feet by letter. Surely

there have to be better ways of involving people in that process and perhaps the kind of review that is being looked at would lead us to find those answers.

The whole question of election contributions, gifts, codes of conduct for municipal politicians and for their employees, an inquiry of the type that is contemplated here might lead us in that direction. Surely it is time for this government to recognize that the tools, the mechanisms and the processes that governed planning in the past in this province are now obsolete and outdated. Let's move into the 1990s and let's really put in place a planning process that will make sure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. It is no longer good enough to regard planning as just a question to be decided by negotiation.

The current Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grand-maitre), when he was Minister of Municipal Affairs said he was going to put an end to planning by negotiation. What happened to him? He quickly got moved out of the portfolio of

Minister of Municipal Affairs and we have heard no more of that fine sentiment.

I urge the government members to think carefully before rejecting the resolution that is before us today. Maybe they have strong concerns about York and they do not like the way and how it has come about, but I urge them to consider whether or not the kind of inquiry that is contemplated might not in fact be the first step on a road to really making some improvements in the planning process in this province. That is why I am supporting the resolution.

Mr. Speaker: We have run out of time. That completes the emergency debate under standing order 37.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, just simply for the benefit of the House I would indicate that the order of business tomorrow will be the 40th order, the second reading of Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
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 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
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Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
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*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, November 10, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, November 10, 1988

The House met at 10:01 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL SMOKING BY-LAW AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. Sterling moved second reading of Bill 157, An Act to authorize Municipalities to pass By-laws respecting Smoking in the Workplace and in Enclosed Public Places.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Mr. Sterling: At the outset, I would like to reserve any portion that is not used in the next 20 minutes for a windup after other members of the Legislature have had an opportunity to comment.

I am very pleased today to speak on behalf of Bill 157, the Municipal Smoking By-law Authorization Act. However, I would like to make it clear from the outset that this legislation, frankly, is my second choice to bring forward at this time. I would have preferred to bring forward Bill 3, which also stands in my name, the Non-Smokers' Protection Act, which would have invoked province-wide control on smoking in public places, public vehicles and in the workplace. It is not an optional bill whereby municipalities opt in or opt out. It would have applied to all areas of the province, inclusively.

It was just yesterday that I received a letter from Dr. Goodyear of the Ontario Cancer Foundation, Hamilton Clinic. He too disagrees with the priority of my bills and suggests:

"A province-wide measure is going to make a much bigger impact on the health of this community than leaving it to a municipality-by-municipality approach. In light of recent moves by the federal government, I believe that the province has a mandate and a responsibility to pass complementary legislation to the two federal bills to ensure that the protection offered by those bills applies to the people of Ontario as well. Unfortunately, and most surprisingly, the provincial government is still dragging its feet on this issue, and it is therefore up to private

members, such as yourself, to take on this responsibility."

Unfortunately, previous experience with Bill 3 and its forerunner, Bill 71 as it was known at that time, and with this government, has led me to believe that such a measure would not meet with success. Instead, I have chosen to go with my second-best option and allow municipalities to address the smoke-in-the-workplace issue on an individual basis. After all, half a loaf is better than none.

I would now like to address my comments to Bill 157 directly. The essence of this bill is quite simple, in that it will enable a local council of any municipality to pass bylaws with respect to smoking in the workplace. The bill also allows a municipality to appoint inspectors to enforce the act. Should an inspector be obstructed in his or her duties, the inspector may apply to a justice of the peace for a warrant to enter into the workplace.

As well, the bill enables the local council of a municipality to pass bylaws prohibiting or regulating smoking in enclosed public places. I have included this particular section in the bill as I feel there continues to exist some confusion in municipalities with respect to their ability to enact nonsmoking bylaws for public areas. While I believe that the right currently exists for municipalities to pass this kind of bylaw, including it in my bill can only add the weight of specific provincial approval for those hesitant to proceed in this direction.

This bill does not require a municipality to adopt this legislation, but it offers it the opportunity if it should so desire. This is necessary if municipalities are going to legislate in the area of the workplace, for they do not have that power at this time.

To date, this assembly has passed three pieces of enabling legislation to do essentially the same as my bill does. The city of Toronto, the city of Etobicoke and the town of Markham now have the ability to enact workplace smoking bylaws. In view of the government's passage of these bills, one must assume it is supportive of this type of legislation. I congratulate the government of Ontario on allowing this initiative to these progressive municipalities. It should be noted,

however, that other municipalities are eagerly knocking on the province's door for similar legislation. I shall refer to this issue later.

What of the remaining municipalities? There are over 800 other municipalities. What protection is afforded to workers in these communities with respect to smoking in the workplace? In a word, none. They do not have any rights with regard to being protected from secondhand smoke in the workplace.

I perceive this to be an injustice for a number of reasons. If the luxury of a smoke-free workplace is available to workers in Toronto, why is it not also available to those in Kanata, Cumberland, Timmins, Trenton or Timiskaming. Should not these communities have the option open to them as well?

Many municipalities, particularly smaller ones, do not have the time, expertise or financial resources to create a private bill to offer the province to try to seek the approval of this Legislature so that they can have this power. Should these municipal councils lose out on the opportunity to protect their workers because of these inabilities?

The answer to these questions is obvious, which is why I hope all members of this assembly will support my bill and rectify this explicit injustice.

Across this country, only 22 municipalities have workplace smoking bylaws. The majority of these occur in British Columbia and Alberta. In Ontario, we have one functioning bylaw in the city of Toronto, with two more to come on board in the new year. Members may also be aware that a number of municipalities are awaiting provincial guidance on this issue. Many communities would rejoice to hear the government indicate it is going to enact provincial legislation on this matter, but I suspect that will be a long wait, as my Bill 71 died on the order paper awaiting third reading, and I fear the same fate awaits Bill 3 which is a sequel to Bill 71.

1010

I sincerely hope the bill we are discussing today does not suffer from the same degree of neglect. While this initiative is necessary for the convenience of the municipalities, it is also necessary for another important reason. For some inexplicable reason, tobacco use appears to be on the increase. Statistics Canada figures show that for the first eight months of 1988, overall tobacco sales in Canada are up by almost one percentage point. Until this year, the change experienced has been one of decline. In previous years, the decline has been in the area of two per

cent, three per cent or four per cent. A reverse in this trend is frightening for the health of Canadians.

Recently, we experienced in the east a toxic mussel scare. It elicited tremendous public and tremendous government reaction. Yet today, on November 10, 35 people to 40 people will die prematurely by seven years due to the ill effects of tobacco.

It is not being dealt with in a serious manner by this province at this time. It is a matter that should be dealt with in a serious manner. Unfortunately, in Canada, 1988 will be a landmark year—unfortunately, because tragically, more women will die in 1988 as a result of lung cancer than will die of breast cancer. Tobacco is the greatest single cause of lung cancer. Approximately 90 per cent of people who contract lung cancer have it as a result of tobacco use.

Tobacco contributes greatly to heart disease, throat cancer, esophageal cancer and respiratory diseases. In North America every year, there are 350,000 smoking-related deaths. Those figures are hard to ignore. We do not know if it is the nicotine or one of the remaining 49 toxic gases, particles or liquids found in cigarettes that creates the poison that takes hold of an individual and draws that life to a close prematurely. We do know that nicotine is addictive, and that once addicted it becomes very difficult for an individual to break that addiction. I know of no other legal substance that has such devastating effects when used as directed.

The issue that cuts to the very heart of this bill is the issue of secondhand smoke. While reducing the opportunity to smoke in the workplace may assist some smokers in their attempt to break their addiction, this bill is primarily aimed at the nonsmokers, to protect them from sidestream or secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is more than a nuisance for nonsmokers in their place of employment. It is a health hazard, which for the most must simply be endured as there is no recourse for the employee who suffers from it. One cannot walk away from one's job quite so easily as one could leave a smoke-filled restaurant.

The effects of secondhand smoke have been well documented. In this age of hypersensitivity, more and more individuals are becoming allergic to many of the airborne pollutants and chemicals we are forced to breathe each day. Respiratory ailments are no longer uncommon. The most common hazards of secondhand smoke include headaches, runny eyes and nose, coughs, nausea, a worsening of allergies, breathing difficul-

ties, respiratory illness, and yes, even lung cancer; all this without mentioning the effect of smoke on the unborn.

Each year, 5,500 nonsmokers die in North America as a result of secondhand smoke. We must reduce, or at least reverse, this unacceptable death toll rate.

Secondhand smoke is both bothersome and hazardous. Individuals should not have to make employment choices; that is, to work or not to work on the basis of air quality in their offices. If individuals will not look to the health cause, then employers should be looking to the economic costs of workplace smoking, for it is a costly venture.

Studies have shown that smokers miss twice as much work as their nonsmoking colleagues. Smokers have twice the accident rate of nonsmokers. The smoking employee wastes up to 30 minutes per day lighting up. What is the cost to the employer? On a general average basis, approximately \$5,000 per year per smoker. Now add this to the increased health care costs from smoking, the property damage as a result of careless smoking, and most of all the loss of the individuals who suffer death as a result of smoking, and you get a total of \$5.2 billion in Canada a year lost to this habit of smoking in the workplace.

Combine the health and economic costs with the fact that 70 per cent of the population does not smoke and I believe members will see the necessity, at the very least of workplace smoking bylaws. If we can focus in on this one area of the entire smoking issue and effect a change there, then we may be able to encourage people to reduce their tobacco intake. We may even save some lives in the process. This, I feel, is a goal worth striving for.

Perhaps the best part of this initiative, Bill 157, is that it is not new. In fact, the concept has been proved effective by the city of Toronto; it is tried and true. They, in effect, were the guinea-pig to determine the effectiveness of this type of legislation and the experiment is working.

Workers are not rioting in the streets as some might have suggested. Employers are working with their employees to find effective and flexible smoking policies for their individual workplaces. To give you an example of how it has worked here in Toronto, the city has received 263 official complaints that it has had to investigate. Only one out of the 263 has actually been prosecuted in court. This means that 262

official complaints were settled amicably between the employer and his or her employees.

In addition, there have been thousands of telephone inquiries on this issue. Interestingly enough, many phone calls have been made on this issue by provincial government employees who are located in the city of Toronto, but who are not covered by this legislation. Keep in mind that the city of Toronto has over 50,000 workplaces and in excess of a half-million employees to contend with, and yet there was only one instance of noncompliance in all of the city of Toronto in the first eight months of this being in place.

There are many municipalities, as I mentioned, that are knocking on the door. There are many employees across this province who are not covered by this particular legislation.

I notice with a certain degree of disappointment and regret that the provincial government's plans for creating a smoking ban in provincial offices has missed its September 1 deadline. I sincerely hope this is not an indication of their interest in this entire question. I know that the former Minister of Health who is now the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston) will not renege on his promise to more than 84,000 civil servants in Ontario in many government offices across our province. I would think that he and the present Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) would certainly see the value of my proposed legislation.

1020

Finally, the members representing areas like the city of Ottawa, the city of Windsor, the city of North York, the city of Scarborough and the city of Hamilton should take a moment to listen to their local councils. I think they will find this is one responsibility they are now willing to take on in lack of provincial action. We have a choice today to pass this bill or we can go the very expensive and time-consuming route which has been travelled on three previous occasions by Toronto, Etobicoke and Markham.

To conclude this portion of my remarks, I would like to briefly mention a few groups and organizations that have offered their support to my endeavours with regard to smoking over the past three years. They include the Ontario Lung Association; the Canadian Heart Foundation; Physicians For A Smoke-Free Canada; the Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario division; the Non-Smokers' Rights Association and countless thousands of individuals. In fact, I presented a petition in the last parliament on behalf of over 30,000 individuals who have written to me

indicating their appreciation for action that I have taken on behalf of this smoking issue.

I sincerely hope that on this occasion my endeavours will prove more fruitful than in the past. Individuals in Ontario should have the freedom to smoke, but they do not have the right to pollute the air of others.

Mr. Miller: I am pleased to rise this morning to take part in the debate on private member's Bill 157, An Act to authorize Municipalities to pass By-laws respecting Smoking in the Workplace and in Enclosed Public Places. I have long admired the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) for the sincere concern he has often demonstrated for the rights of nonsmokers. I want to make it clear to that member and to all other members in this House that I have no problem with the principle of this bill, just its method.

I represent the riding of Norfolk, where the production of tobacco represents an important part of the local economy. Like anyone in business, tobacco farmers have to be able to predict and assess in a reasonable way what forces will shape the market environment in which they have to sell their product. In Ontario, this process is aided by the Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, but the overall demand for their product is slipping.

This bill, should it become law, would place the tobacco farmers and those communities dependent upon tobacco production in the position of not knowing when or where such a bylaw would be enacted. There would be no consistency in action, no consistency in standards and no consistency in the effect upon tobacco growers, their families and communities.

The members of this House who represent ridings where tobacco growing is an important economic activity know all too well that the tobacco growing industry is not in the best shape at the present time. Since 1982, tobacco production in Ontario has dropped nearly 50 per cent. The number of Ontario tobacco farmers has dropped from 2,500 to 1,500.

All in all, the tobacco industry is experiencing an annual market decline of approximately five per cent, and this is projected to continue for the next three or four years. Revenue from tobacco taxes is down \$15 million, according to the Treasurer's second quarterly report for 1988-89.

Eighty per cent of all tobacco grown in Canada is grown within 50 kilometres of the town of Delhi in my riding. Only a few weeks ago, the Dibcom Tobacco Processor Ltd. plant in that community shut down. The result is that 25

full-time jobs and 200 seasonal jobs have disappeared from a town of 4,500 people.

I am sure I do not need to emphasize that a job loss of this magnitude means a great deal to a small community. The tobacco-related workforce in the riding of Norfolk and in other tobacco growing regions across the province is real people. Some of them are without jobs now. More will be without work over the next few years and many will face multiple layoffs. This bill says nothing as to how to help these people adjust to the new reality which confronts them.

This kind of inconsistent, piecemeal approach to regulating smoking in the workplace is not fair to the employees of Ontario, nor is it fair to the tobacco farmers of the communities who depend upon this industry for their survival. What is needed is a uniform and consistently applied set of regulations which do not differ from town to town or from city to city. Then at least the farmer would know where he stands.

The government of Ontario, on the other hand, has been approaching the downsizing of the tobacco industry in a sensitive and rationale way.

The government of Ontario was instrumental in establishing the three-year accord, including \$15 million for funding the tobacco assistance program. This program has led to an orderly and a compassionate restructuring of the tobacco production sector. The government of Ontario continues to provide a broad array of programs to help tobacco growers. These programs include research services, the transition crop team and market development assistance, especially considering the export market. I will not mention the extensive programs available to all farmers.

In addition to the practical economic question, which this bill fails to address, there is also the issue of the rights of smoking workers. There is the larger question of workplace air quality. A recent study of air quality was done in a number of Ottawa offices where smoking was not regulated. It showed that the exposure to environmental tobacco smoke by nonsmokers in office environments was very low. In fact, a person would have to spend 260 straight hours in such an office environment to be exposed to the equivalent environmental tobacco smoke in one cigarette. I know that in my own office, where we have no outside air to recirculate, you are breathing somebody else's air, recycled air. I think a lot of effort has to be put into changing that so that at least people have the opportunity of breathing fresh air from the outside.

I recognize that workplace smoking regulations impinge upon a complex set of conflicting

values and perceived individual rights, and I feel I must point out that tobacco remains a legal product in this country. As long as it remains a legal product, its use must be a matter of choice and the rights of those who choose to use this product must also be recognized. Again I must say that this bill does nothing to accommodate the rights of the smokers, and I will say nonsmokers as well, because it is very imprecise as to where a person may smoke if he so wishes. There is not a word in this bill referring to a designated smoking area. This kind of omission is a disservice, as I said, to smokers and nonsmokers alike.

To continue my remarks on this bill, I want to reiterate that this bill would serve only to make planning more difficult for the farmer. At least the committee process allows other points of view to be heard before legislation is brought forward for second and third reading. If this bill were passed, I feel that the rights of a minority, smokers, would be ignored.

I think the most basic flaw with this bill is that it is modelled on a very specific piece of legislation that was developed for a particular community, in this case the town of Markham. I do not mean to belittle the town of Markham, and I have nothing but respect for the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens), but I believe, and I am sure even the member would agree, that what is good for Markham may not necessarily be good for Ontario.

I do not intend to support the bill. I believe our government is capable of bringing in a bill dealing with the smoking issue that would be fairer to everyone in Ontario.

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, this is my first opportunity to welcome you to your role in the chair, sir. I look forward to being put in my place by you, as I have been by so many others in that chair over the years.

An hon. member: Hear, hear.

Mr. B. Rae: I knew that would get some support from members.

I am delighted to speak in the debate today. I want to start by saying that I think there is considerable merit in the arguments that have been made both by the member for Carleton and by the member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller).

There is a reality, however, that we have to come to terms with: Tobacco kills people. There is no other way to put it. You can dance around it all you want. You can think of all the things that one can say about cigarettes or the numbers of warnings that we put on packages of cigarettes, but we have an incredible problem. We have a

substance that for cultural reasons has been part of our way of life. All of us are obviously affected by tobacco. We have a habit that is culturally sanctioned, that is widely advertised and that is economically important.

The member for Norfolk has spoken very movingly and consistently in this House on behalf of his constituents, and if any one of us represented his riding, we would be doing precisely the same thing, pointing out that people who have been producing tobacco are losing income, losing their farms, losing their way of life, and the regional economy in southwestern Ontario is obviously very much affected by this change.

1030

Mr. Miller: It is a legal product.

Mr. B. Rae: And, as the member says in raising it with me, it is a legal product. He is quite right in saying that; it is a legal product. This is why in our party we have argued as follows. It is obviously unrealistic to ban tobacco or to make it illegal as a product at the present time. Obviously, because of the extent of the habit and because it is in many respects essentially a private habit, it would be absurd to carry out a ban making the substance and the production of that substance illegal.

I want to add, though, that it does not just end there. What we have to do is to recognize, and I think this government should recognize much more clearly and forthrightly than it has, that tobacco kills.

Mr. Miller: What doesn't?

Mr. B. Rae: I will be glad to engage in an argument with the member for Norfolk, but the reality is that the evidence from the United States, from the United Kingdom, from Canada, from the World Health Organization, from around the world is absolutely overwhelming: Tobacco is addictive. The smoking of tobacco, the chewing of tobacco and the sniffing of tobacco are habits that are addictive and they are habits that can kill. The evidence is overwhelming in terms of the relationship to lung cancer, the relationship to heart disease. Those are facts.

What we have proposed is that while this reality should be at the forefront of the government's policy with respect to health, at the same time those who are now engaged in the production of this substance, who are going to be affected by an aggressive and effective government policy with respect to smoking, should be compensated. They must be compensated and

they must be compensated in a generous and effective way.

I would suggest to the member that he can do, and I know he will do, as much as possible for his constituents by saying, "Don't make the tobacco farmers of this province exclusively pay the price for what is surely now, every one of us would agree, firmly on the public health agenda."

That is the issue. The issue is not, I would suggest to the member, getting into an argument. I have had this argument with workers in the cigarette factories in Guelph and in Toronto. We start talking about it and I say, "Look, the difficulty that all of us are in is that we do know that tobacco is a noxious substance, it is a toxic substance and it causes death." They say, "Well, we don't know; all the facts aren't in"—you know, all the arguments one has heard ever since the 1950s, when studies first began to be done about the effects of tobacco.

My argument has been, consistently, with those men and women who are not that highly paid and who are devastatedly affected by this change in our society, let's focus on the issue of compensation. Let's increase substantially the amount per cigarette that Ontario collects in taxes. We now collect in Ontario—

Mr. Miller: More taxes are not the answer, so long as tobacco is a legal product and people smoke. It will drive them to roll-your-own smoking, as in the 1930s.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: I am happy to be heckled by the member for Norfolk, and I do not mind it. I know the extent of his feelings on this subject and I know the kind of difficulties he is facing in his own constituency, and I respect him for that. But if I may, let me put forward my point of view.

I am speaking now as a private member but also obviously as leader of our party, I feel very strongly that we should be increasing the taxes on cigarettes. I think we should be increasing the taxes per cigarette. Ontario now has the lowest taxation per cigarette, at 2.83 cents, of any jurisdiction in Canada. That is a disgrace.

We should be using that money to do two things. We should be setting that money aside from an increase in revenues. We should be setting that money aside to do two things. First of all, we should compensate those who are working in the tobacco industry, farmers and people who are working in cigarette factories. Second, we should be dealing directly with a much more aggressive campaign on the effect of cigarettes on health, than we have done.

There is, if I might say so, an interesting article today in the Toronto Globe and Mail, from which we understand that the government of Canada—which I understand is now run by a party that is roughly similar to the one that is represented by the member for Carleton—has in fact, I gather under the Tobacco Products Control Act, pulled its punches in terms of the kind of information which is being given out on cigarette packages, that they have not put as aggressive a message on the cigarette packages as should be there.

I say to the member for Norfolk, I am fed up with the statistics that show that young women are increasingly turning to smoking. I am fed up with advertising which shows smoking to be a trendy and acceptable habit. I am fed up with walking into all kinds of environments and finding young people still turning to cigarettes because they think it is the fashionable thing to do. Those kids do not know today what we know because they are not aware. We have taken for granted the fact that cigarettes cause lung cancer. We said, "Oh, that was news in 1958 and 1959 when the US Surgeon General began to talk about it." But the kids today do not know about it.

We, as a province, and the government of Canada must be aggressive and effective in saying: "Look, it just isn't a smart thing to do. It's not a healthy thing to do. It's not a wise thing to do." I think it is time for us to get aggressive and effective in dealing with what is a major public health hazard and problem in Ontario today. We cannot put our heads in the sand any longer on this question. It is very important that we move ahead.

There are two other points that I want to make. One is that I support the bill with respect to bylaws and the enforcement of bylaws. Again, it is an example where the municipalities, and if I may say so local boards of health, have been ahead of this government in moving on this question of public health and the impact that it is having in the workplace. I think it is worthy of support.

The last point I want to make is that I have talked today about the effect that smoking has on health. I want to say that I think it is time this province looked hard and long at the need for a universal sickness and accident plan which would provide effective disability benefits and disability payments for those whose lives have been devastated by cancer and by heart disease caused by smoking.

All of us in this House know that a number of times we have had arguments with the Workers'

Compensation Board because we have not been able to prove that a lung cancer, a stomach cancer or some other kind of cancer is related to the workplace. Many times the doctors at the board say: "Was this guy a smoker? If he was a smoker, we have no way of knowing whether the cancer came from the workplace or from tobacco."

They are right, technically speaking. That is why I want to say, talking about crusades, it is time we had a crusade in this province for a universal sickness and accident plan that would provide disability benefits for all those who are affected by sickness and illness, regardless of cause. I think we should be taking this debate that we are having today, the debate on car insurance and the debate that we are having on workers' compensation, and putting them into this new perspective that we have in this party, that it is high time that Ontario had a universal sickness and accident plan that would provide compensation for all those who are the victims of illness, sickness and accidents.

Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to join in this debate on Bill 157 and would like first of all to give credit to the member for Carleton, who has been a crusader and who has been a person who has been fighting in a most genuine way in defence of the whole society which we are trying to represent, that is to help protect our society from the hazards and problems related to smoking.

My friend the member for Carleton has presented a case here this morning that I am surprised even the member for Norfolk, a man for whom I have very high regard and great respect, has not found he is able to support. The only question I would ask the member for Norfolk is whether the member puts profit ahead of health. That really becomes the concern.

Mr. Miller: That is not true.

Mr. Cousens: I did not hear the member say that. Maybe we should give him extra time to comment on that. In the meantime, I am especially pleased that our friend the member for Carleton has made such an excellent case for this bill.

1040

An identical bill has already been passed by this Legislature in a private member's bill that I presented on May 24, 1988, Bill Pr20, An Act respecting the Town of Markham. This bill we are now looking at today, which is Bill 157, is identical to that. I could not have put together Bill Pr20 without the assistance and support of the member for Carleton, so I am especially pleased

that he has been able to bring it forward. He has been the leader in our caucus and I think across Ontario in this crusade, and it is in that respect that I am pleased to support him on it.

When I became interested in this bill, it had to do with one person. She more than any other woke up the community of Markham to the need for some legislation. Her name is Donna Bush. I would like to read into the record the presentation she made to the town of Markham. She said:

"My name is Donna Bush and I am a resident of the town of Markham. I have been on medical leave of absence from my workplace, which is an international corporation, for the past 18 months. The reason for my medical leave is a disease called asthma. My asthma began over four years ago when I was subjected to secondhand smoke at the workplace. My extreme sensitivity to secondhand smoke has brought me close to death on a number of occasions. Although there is no cure for my disease, I must rely on medication for the rest of my life.

"There is only one course of action that will enable me to get back to work. That action is to obtain enabling legislation that will allow the town of Markham to pass a bylaw to regulate smoking in the workplace.

"I have been working on this issue within the town of Markham since 1986, and am here representing the vast majority of people in Markham. They are comprised of students, senior citizens, business owners, people from many varied occupations, nonsmokers and smokers alike. The nonsmokers are suffering from secondhand smoke and the smokers are suffering from nicotine addiction. Both groups have one thing in common and that is the desire for health protection. This health protection is something that is not voluntarily forthcoming from most of our employers."

She does go on in her presentation, but I just know there are more Donna Bushes out there, not only in the riding of Markham but across the province of Ontario. Who knows, there may be a person similar to Donna Bush in the riding of Norfolk. People like that are only asking for the protection that is their due. Therefore, I am pleased to see the bill before us now, Bill 157, will have an application across the entire province for those municipalities that want to do something with it.

I think many people are not aware of just how limited existing legislation is and why it is essential that the province begin now to look at this bill. Without this legislation being passed by the province, a municipality in the province of

Ontario is limited in its efforts to prohibit or regulate smoking in public places and has no specific legal authority to control smoking in the workplace.

The Municipal Act, RSO 1980, chapter 302, as amended, gives a municipality certain powers to regulate smoking. Section 104 provides in part, "Every council may pass such bylaws and make such regulations for the health, safety, morality and welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality in matters not specifically provided for by this act as may be deemed expedient and are not contrary to law." This section has been used by municipalities on various occasions to deal with matters that were not specifically referred to in the Municipal Act.

The courts view this section with some suspicion and have tended to give it a very narrow interpretation. A municipality would use this section as a last resort only if it could not find more specific authority elsewhere in the Municipal Act.

Paragraph 134 of section 210 states, "Bylaws may be passed by the councils of local municipalities...for prohibiting and abating public nuisances." Again, the power given to a municipality to use this section to control smoking is general in nature. A municipality would have to prove that smoking in public places is a public nuisance.

Paragraph 27 of section 210 is the only reference in the Municipal Act which gives a municipality specific rights to regulate smoking. It reads as follows, "Bylaws may be passed by the councils of local municipalities...for regulating smoking in retail shops in which 10 or more persons are employed, or in any class or classes thereof, and for prohibiting smoking in such shops or any class or classes thereof, or in any part or parts thereof."

While it is specific, it is limited in scope, and does not address the numerous situations that can be encountered with smoking in public places, in malls, in plazas and in particular in the workplace.

With this bill, and the bill is identical to the one in Markham, we are looking at a subject which has been characterized, certainly in Markham, as a public nuisance, in that exhaled smoke and smoke from idling cigarettes are a health hazard.

Markham also stated in its own preamble to its existing bylaws that it is desirable for the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Markham to provide for regulating smoking.

For a municipality to successfully defend the challenge to a smoking bylaw based on a public nuisance or a health hazard, a municipality must

prove that smoking is both of those things. That is to say, it must be both a public nuisance and a health hazard. The courts have held that a municipality cannot constitute an act a public nuisance by simply designating it as such. The act must in fact be a public nuisance. As stated earlier, the courts have given a very narrow interpretation to section 104 and there would be an obligation on the part of the municipality, if challenged, to show that a smoking regulation bylaw passed under this section was passed in order to protect the health, safety, morality and welfare of the inhabitants.

Rather than confront these obstacles, the town of Markham proposed its own legislation, and that is why the member for Carleton has proposed this general legislation for the whole province, to give specific authority to any municipality that wants it to prohibit and regulate smoking in public places.

What we are really talking about is a subject that affects all those people in the province of Ontario when they are electing councils this coming Monday. Maybe what they should have done is asked those councillors during the municipal election process, "What would you do if we as a council had the opportunity to institute this kind of regulation within the workplace and within the community at large?" I would hope that many communities would rise to the challenge, even without that opportunity being raised now prior to municipal elections, to say: "Yes, we are going to do something about it. We are grateful that the province has given the leadership. The province has now put the laws in place so that we as municipalities are not going to be threatened with possible legal action against us by virtue of having taken a strong action to protect the nonsmoker in the workplace."

This is an important bill and I trust it will receive full support from this House.

Mrs. LeBourdais: I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak for this particular bill, which I wholeheartedly support. It is, in fact, one for which I have waited with bated breath—bated due to the all-too-frequent smoke-filled workplace, where fresh, breathable air is too often at a premium.

Every member of this House should be aware that the member for Carleton takes the issue of smoking and its effects upon the public health very seriously, as do I and many of my colleagues. Since my coming to the Legislature a short year and a half ago, my first office was formerly the member from Carleton's office, so I thank him for providing me with a smoke-free

workplace. I also turned it over as a smoke-free workplace to the new incumbent in that office.

The time has now come, however, to take another step forward and support measures to enhance the reduction of tobacco smoke in the workplace. It is by no means the only contaminant from which we have to safeguard ourselves, but it is the most prevalent and to my way of thinking the greatest irritant.

1050

Although I am a nonsmoker, I am not without sympathy for the difficulties faced by the chronic smoker who is subjected to additional stresses and strain when working in a smoke-free environment. For this reason, I wholeheartedly support any and all programs which assist individuals in overcoming their addiction in a manner which will make the withdrawal process a more bearable one both for them and for us.

I believe this bill attempts to balance concerns of smokers and nonsmokers by enabling the employer to allow smoking in designated smoking areas. While this bill will empower the employer to allow smoking in the workplace, consultation with employees may want to be more strongly encouraged. Simply digging in our heels and storming out in righteous indignation is not the answer.

While I support the accommodation of smokers, as the smoking area is set out to provide, I would encourage a degree of restriction on the size of such areas. The point must still be made that smoking is to be discouraged in the workplace, where it has for all too long infringed on the clean air space of fellow workers.

For all too long, those of us who are nonsmokers have been made to feel that we are difficult or spoilsports if we voice an objection to those around us smoking in close proximity while we sit with burning and often tear-filled eyes and return home with clothes reeking of tobacco smoke.

Although it is part of the desire to encourage the accommodation of nonsmokers, this bill does not require structural alterations, thus making it easier for employers to accommodate nonsmokers. I would hope that in construction of new buildings or the reconstruction of existing facilities appropriate designs would be put in place that would ensure completely separated spaces and adequate ventilation. Just as we have now learned to accommodate the physically disabled, we must also learn to engineer our buildings so that they accommodate smokers and nonsmokers alike.

I am pleased to make note that some 60 municipalities, which include the vast majority of the province's population, have already endorsed smoking bylaws with the support of their respective communities. The system is working and thereby ensuring a healthier workplace environment for smokers and nonsmokers alike.

As members well know, my government supports the municipal option in certain other jurisdictions and although this bill supports the municipal option, I would hope that in future legislation covering this area would be province-wide. Air space is not something you can cordon off.

Smoking is a major cause of ill health, disability and premature death. This is all the more tragic because it is preventable. The effects of smoking are well documented and well publicized, but I still want to review some of the statistics.

Thirty per cent of cancer and coronary heart disease deaths are directly attributable to smoking. Overall death rates for smokers are 13 to 17 times higher than those for nonsmokers. It has been estimated that an average of five and a half minutes of life are lost for each cigarette smoked.

Awareness of the health consequences of smoking is not limited to nonsmokers, however. In fact, surveys show that smokers and nonsmokers alike are nearly equally supportive of restrictions on smoking in the workplace. This general acknowledgement of the health consequences of smoking among both smokers and nonsmokers, as well as the increasing evidence which demonstrates the linkage between secondary tobacco smoke or environmental tobacco smoke as it is sometimes called, and the health of nonsmokers has given rise to new concerns and demands for restrictions on smoking in workplaces.

As a result, workplace smoke restriction policies are becoming more commonplace and none too soon. Historically, smoking restrictions were imposed for safety, security or productivity reasons. Today, however, the motivation is more likely to be related to concerns for highly sensitive computer equipment and the demands of nonsmokers for a smoke-free workplace.

As the number of nonsmokers in this province continues to increase, we in this Legislature must take a leading role and must reflect this change in society's attitude to smoke in the workplace, and I think we can start with our respective east and west lobbies as soon as possible.

We are not dragging our feet but rather saying that through thorough and thoughtful deliberation we will address the issue in a manner that will fulfil the commitment of the Minister of Health to provide a direction towards healthier lifestyles while showing a certain sensitivity to those for whom smoking is a long-standing addiction that is difficult to overcome.

Tobacco companies themselves know that the writing is on the wall. Most have already begun diversifying their investments into other areas or, regrettably, targeting our youth, particularly young girls, and also targeting Third World countries where the marketplace is less sophisticated and less well informed on the hazards of smoking. Farmers must look to that diversification by the tobacco companies and plan to diversify themselves and to start now. A major cigarette firm has used the phrase, "You've come a long way, baby" to suggest that women who smoke have made great strides in emulating men, including their cigarette intake.

Mr. Wildman: What man would refer to himself as "baby"?

Mrs. LeBourdais: The odd one.

Interjections.

Mrs. LeBourdais: None has taken great steps, if that is the only advancement we can allude to. Only when we have butted out on that last weed can we already claim that "Baby, we've now come a long way," but as yet we still have a long way to go.

It has always surprised me that often in discussions with young mothers when I myself had a young child, as I would sit in their living rooms and they would be talking about all the plans they have for their young children, about the way they are going to educate them, the way they are going to train them, the motives they are going to try to implant in their children, etc., all the while they are smoking and that smoke drifts over their children. This kind of nonsense has to stop. Again, I fully support the bill.

The Deputy Speaker: Would any honourable member like to speak? There are about two minutes left before the response.

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the fact that I have the opportunity to participate in this debate and to support the resolution that my colleague has put forward.

I would not characterize myself as a militant nonsmoker. However, I must say—

Mr. Mahoney: Just militant.

Mr. Wildman: Militant, yes. I must say, though, that as a person who does not smoke I

have found it encouraging over the last few years to find that there seem to be in the adult population fewer and fewer people smoking in public places. We find in our transportation facilities, for instance, the situation where now there is no longer much opportunity for people to smoke. That is true also in many shopping centres and other public places.

I am concerned, though, about the fact that it seems that more and more young people are smoking at earlier ages. This is particularly true, it appears from the statistics, among young women. I think that somehow, besides moving this kind of a resolution, everyone in this House would agree that we must concentrate on more education programs to educate our young people so that we are not just setting restrictions on where people can smoke but encouraging people by giving them the proper information to make the choices that are necessary for their own good health.

I support the resolution. I commend the member for bringing it forward. I understand his feelings on this subject and I will be supporting the resolution when it comes to a vote.

Mr. Sterling: I would like to thank all members who have participated in this debate and who have listened to the debate today.

The smoking of tobacco products is probably the most preventable cause of disease that we have in Ontario and Canada. If we could convince people in Ontario and Canada to stop smoking today, then as time progressed we would have, with today's population, 32,000 fewer deaths in a given year. Young people who are here today in the gallery should know that if they take up the habit of smoking, 35 to 40 people will die prematurely by seven years from when they would have died.

Not many of the young people of Ontario are getting that message, unfortunately, and they are taking up the habit of smoking. Smoking is a problem because it is addictive. In other words, once they start, many people cannot stop that habit during all of their lifetime.

1100

I only want to say in reply to my good friend the member for Norfolk, who represents many tobacco producers, that this legislation, in itself, does not stand alone. It does not provide compensation for tobacco producers. I agree with the member of the New Democratic Party when he says there should be increased compensation for these people. There should be retraining programs not only for producers who are

farming this product but also for those who are involved in the production and manufacture of it.

I just want to read from a letter, if I have a few moments, from a woman in Ottawa-Carleton:

"I have had health problems for some time due to secondhand smoke at work. I need and like my job, but it has become obvious that if the quality of air does not improve soon, I will have to resign. I feel strongly that being forced to choose between my job and my health is an unacceptable ultimatum."

FEDERAL HOUSING POLICY

Mr. J. B. Nixon moved resolution 49:

That, in the opinion of this House, the federal government should be condemned for its inadequate housing policy and its failure to co-operate with other levels of government in the production and preservation of housing stock.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and may reserve any portion of it for the windup.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I would like to reserve the balance of time after I have spoken for my windup.

A satisfactory housing policy that produces and preserves housing stock for all Canadians is a goal we expect from all three levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal. No one level of government can solve this problem. All three levels of government can solve the problem if they work in partnership.

Few activities in society are as influenced by government as shelter. "Property," said Jeremy Bentham a long time ago, "is entirely the work of law, and when I say that, I mean property does not exist without law."

Property relationships are legal relationships created by government. Municipalities zone land by law, service land by law and give permits by law. Provinces provide social housing by law, implement rent control and provide subsidies by law. The federal government also provides social housing by law and, through macroeconomic policy, determines the mortgage rate and the availability of capital, all by law.

I suggest that all three levels of government have to collaborate in a great national effort to ensure that a civilized country like Canada has an adequate housing policy.

On what principles, I ask, should this policy be based?

First, adequate shelter is a right, not a luxury. If shelter is not available, individuals should have a claim against society to provide that right. This right is at risk in Canada today.

Second, beyond providing a minimum level of adequate shelter, a democracy should strive to maximize the range of housing choice available to individuals. Individual circumstances change, and the housing market must be flexible to meet those changing needs. The housing market is close to failing this test. There are not enough affordable units for renters and there is not enough medium-priced housing for those who want to buy. In some metropolitan areas, housing choices are narrowing, not expanding.

Third, a democracy must provide a minimum level of shelter for its citizens and it should create the conditions conducive to providing the widest possible amount of individual choice. However, a democracy requires something further: a large core of property-owning citizens. A society with a balance of property holders increases liberty, distributes wealth and reduces dependence. Ownership of a home gives a citizen a stake in the community. In theory, a democracy can exist without a property-owning middle class, but precious few do. Ownership should be as important a goal of housing policy as social equity.

On the one hand, the government's most important task is to prevent extreme inequality of wealth, not by taking extreme wealth away from those who possess it but by removing the barriers to accumulating wealth; not by building the poorhouses of the 19th century, but by protecting citizens from becoming poor.

On the other hand, there are conservatives who allege the right of property as the most sacred of all rights of citizens and more important in certain aspects than freedom itself. But, in fact, a liberal society goes further than establishing rights to property. It goes further by ensuring that the means of exercising those property rights are available to all citizens.

Individual rights without individual power are meaningless. A truly liberal society will ensure individual empowerment so that individuals can use their legal rights to assert their individual being within society. As a liberal society we go beyond bare articulation of individual rights by giving working men and working women an economic stake in the community over which democracy can give them political control.

For the average family, the only significant investment in their lives is in their home. It is for that reason that 40 per cent of all personal savings in Canada, or \$682 billion, has been invested in housing. That is the measure of individual commitment to family housing. Trying to collectively manage the growth of an urban colossus

like Metropolitan Toronto with 3.5 million people is a supremely ambitious task. Trying to provide relief to those thousands of individual Ontarians who pay more than 30 per cent of their income for shelter is a very expensive proposition.

Trying to balance the intricate market relationships of supply, demand and a collective affordability is a policy problem of immense proportions. It is a challenge to all Canadians and for all their levels of government, whether they be federal, provincial and municipal; and if collectively Canadians cannot achieve the democratic requirement of adequate shelter, who can?

The federal government, simply because it is the federal government, has broad controls over the tools of macroeconomic policy, which control and influence the housing market. If one examines the recent use of these tools by the federal government over the past few years, then one concludes that the federal government has been, at the very least, insensitive in its exercise of these economic tools upon the housing market.

Let me give members just four examples. First, the multiple-unit residential building tax incentive program, commonly known as the MURB program, which stimulated rental housing production by allowing individual investors the tax benefit of an investment in rental housing, has been cancelled.

Second, the registered home ownership savings plan, which allowed new home buyers a tax incentive to save the down payment for the purchase of their first-time home, has been eliminated. This means that the hard-to-save-for first-time home is harder to save for, and the federal government has made it so.

Third, the Bank of Canada's high interest rate, which is supported by the federal Minister of Finance, adds annually thousands of dollars to the cost of first-time home buyer's first-time mortgage and first-time mortgage financing.

Fourth, we already know that the beneficiaries of the federal government's tax reform are the high-income earners. The victims of tax reform will be new home buyers, who will see the price of new homes rise by approximately nine per cent, according to the Canadian Home Builders' Association. The Canadian home builders' report, entitled *A Bleak Outlook in the New Housing Sector*, concludes that this increased cost will put the possibility of buying a new home out of reach for some 60,000 potential first-time home buyers. The federal government's proposal would impose an average monthly rent increase

for new renters of new apartments of about 13 per cent.

1110

At one time, the federal government was the driving force behind both market and social housing in this nation. In previous decades, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. was a vehicle for reform, but in Ontario today the federal government clearly takes a back seat to the province and to the municipalities. On the market side, the federal government does little more than insure mortgages. On the social side, Ottawa has, since 1985, decided to subsidize only the core needy, only the people with the very lowest incomes, and it does precious little of that.

In 1985, Toronto's own *Globe and Mail* noted that the federal government cut its national allocation of 22,500 units of assisted housing to 20,000 that year. It was the beginning of a trend. It further noted that allocations for nonprofits—both private nonprofits run by church groups, service groups and social agencies and nonprofit co-operatives—totalled only 719 units in Metropolitan Toronto and York region, whereas in 1981 to 1983 the federal government had averaged 2,377 annually. It concluded already in 1985 that the allocation for the Toronto area had dropped in two years to less than one third of what it was in 1982.

We should note in addition that until 1985, the federal government was the funding agency for private nonprofits and co-ops, whereas the province was funding municipal housing units only. In 1986, a federal-provincial agreement dictated by the federal government prescribed that the federal government funding of the federal-provincial nonprofit program be cut from 90 per cent of each unit to 50 per cent of each unit. And if members think the situation was depressing in 1985, let's carry it through three years to 1988.

In 1985-86, the federal government, as I said, funded 90 per cent of the federal-provincial program to build 5,178 units in Ontario. At that time the province, independently of the federal government, built 3,473 assisted rental housing units. This year, in 1988-89, the federal government will contribute only 50 per cent of an estimated 7,059 rental housing units. The province will pick up the other 50 per cent, not just 10 per cent as it did in 1984. In 1988-89, the province will fund, on its own, the construction of an estimated 11,125 assisted rental housing units. Thus, in four fiscal years, federal unit funding has decreased 32 per cent, whereas

provincial unit funding has increased 367 per cent.

Federal policies are strangling co-op housing projects, which are owned and run by the residents. Last year the federal government financed only 126 co-operative units in Metropolitan Toronto, earmarking just 37 of them for low-income earners.

It almost need not be said again: it is a pretty depressing story. It was said in the provincial government's recent report entitled *More Than Just a Roof: Action to End Homelessness in Ontario*:

"The enormous social costs of failing to provide decent affordable housing for those who need it cannot be too strongly emphasized. Money spent to provide social services, employment training and education will have little or no impact on improving opportunities for low-income families unless their housing situation is secure. Our society will continue to spend vast amounts of money treating the effects of homelessness, without ever ministering to the cause."

I can tell members this from very personal experience visiting some of the shelters in this city. I have met people, youths who are uneducated or short on education, who need skills training and who need medical attention. But they do not have a home, they do not have a telephone they can answer and give out when they are applying for a job, when they are looking for medical care, when they are looking for skills training. They know what they need: they need a place to stay; they need a home of whatever sort can be found.

Not only is the federal government cutting back on funds for social services, employment training and education but, more important for purposes of this debate, it is cutting back on funds for housing. No one knows how much land the federal government owns, but let's be clear: the federal government is the biggest land owner in the country. Recent news reports by David Israelson of the *Toronto Star* confirm a source at Canada Post evaluating the total worth of Canada Post properties alone in the Metro area at a conservative \$700 million. What do we hear in June 1988 but that Canada Post is putting up prime real estate for sale at prime value. The notice read, "Canada Post Corp. is inviting proposals from proponents interested in developing a prime 38.7-acre site."

These prime lands have been declared surplus to the operations of Canada Post. The surplus is being disposed of on the private market. None of

the lands will be dedicated to assisted housing, affordable housing, co-op housing or any other form of affordable shelter.

Canada Post could transfer the real properties to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. for assisted housing initiatives. That is what the provincial ministry has asked for. The Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. and the Ontario government protested to the federal government, saying it had a moral obligation to help the citizens who cannot afford current rents and housing prices, but to no avail. As of today, Canada Post's strategy of profit maximization and the federal government's lack of intervention to assert its social responsibility continue unabated.

When the federal government finally did release some surplus lands for housing, the lands at the Canadian Forces Base Downsview, it demonstrated no understanding of what it had embarked upon. There were no prior discussions with the province or the local municipality. There is no commitment to affordable housing on this site. The mayor of North York quite properly raised questions as to who is going to fund the incredible costs of the infrastructure. There were no prior discussions with the mayor as to the appropriateness of the location, the plan for development or the style of development that would occur. These questions remain unanswered and the project remains in a vacuum for one single reason: a lack of federal government commitment to moving from the bald statement to the physical reality of affordable housing.

These simple promises cannot be delivered upon without hard work. A genuine partnership of federal, provincial and municipal governments must be built. The federal government has not committed to that.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all, there is the question of attitude. Problems do not solve themselves. People can begin to solve problems only when they believe there is a problem that needs a solution. Every member of this provincial Legislature knows there is a problem in the housing market. Traditionally, the federal government has been a partner and, indeed, a leader with the province in solving this problem. Many members will agree that the federal government has abandoned the partnership.

The federal government will not be a willing part of the solution until it acknowledges that there is a problem, yet look at its track record. Since 1984 there has been only a part-time Secretary of State (Housing) until recently, days

before the election was called by the Prime Minister, the federal government appointed a minister. When asked about the homeless situation, Mr. McDermid said: "The homeless have shelter in Canada. They can always get off the street and find a warm place to sleep and be taken care of on a temporary basis." I ask Mr. McDermid to tour some of our urban centres and tell me if that is true.

When asked about the federal government's housing policy, he said, without a hint of doubt: "I feel very comfortable with the housing policy we have. We believe we are on the right track." I say they are on the right track to more homeless and more inadequate housing policy.

When asked about shelter for street people, he said—and members should listen to this, they will enjoy this one—"There is no excuse for anyone not finding a roof over their head. When we look at the so-called street people, it is not just the lack of hostels. Other factors are involved. Some of these people are free spirits and love to live that lifestyle." I say tell that to the homeless.

Come election time, we do hear promises. The Prime Minister says, "In a country like ours it strikes me as completely offensive morally to have people sleeping on the bloody sidewalks." Listen, I agree with the Prime Minister, but what has Mr. Mulroney done about it? Absolutely nothing. Mr. Mulroney says he has the answer. He had the answer when he said, "We all have to collaborate in a great national effort to ensure that this does not happen in a civilized country like Canada."

Well, it is happening. It has happened. What has he done about it? Nothing. The federal government has done nothing to ensure that individuals have a range of housing choices and it has done nothing to assist individuals in the assertion of their right to exercise that choice. It is for these reasons that I ask this Legislature to join with me in a condemnation of the federal government for its inadequate housing policy and its failure to co-operate with other levels of government in the production and preservation of housing stock.

1120

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oshawa.

Mr. Breagh: I am going to support the resolution this morning, but I have a little apprehension here. I am taking a little tour on the wild side, I know, and I am hanging out this morning with a group of folks whose track record itself is not exactly immaculate.

I am going to set aside whatever differences I might have with this government and its ap-

proach to housing. I agree, basically, that there is no denying the historical fact that, about a decade or so ago, all three levels of government were interested in and active in the area of providing decent housing for our citizens. Then, for reasons which escape me totally, the federal and the provincial governments, virtually at the same time, decided to abandon that as being anything that was their responsibility. That meant for the other level of government, at the municipal level, the supply of new housing stock that was provided in any way, shape or form by a level of government was virtually crippled.

I sense that, in part, what we are dealing with this morning, in a strange way, is the federal election. I do not deny the validity of the motion that is before us today. I have seen some small moves that might be called hypocrisy in other quarters. They will not be called that here this morning; but I did find it passing strange, that for all of the discussion of a housing crisis that has taken place in Canada over the last few years, it took them until two weeks before they decided to call an election for the federal government of Canada to decide that they ought to have a Minister of Housing. That is aside from whether he was actually going to do anything or not. They did not even think it was important enough to have one, until they thought about an election.

I would like to point out that for those of us who have been active in trying to help community groups, municipalities, the many in our society who provide housing needs, mostly in the nonprofit sector, who have had the opportunity to work with the federal government of Canada in securing mortgages, for example, it is not an easy task. Each time that I got involved with a group in my community to secure funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. for a nonprofit housing project in my area, we knew that we were going to war. We knew that we did not have any friends in Ottawa. We knew that we would do battle with them every day. We knew that, no matter how many forms we filled out for them, they would have another one. We knew that no matter how much information we gave them, they would want more. We knew that, no matter how many times we asked them: "Who owns this building? We know it is the government of Canada. We know that CMHC has title to the property. Who has the deed?" They would never be able to answer a tough question like that.

I know that in my riding, for two years, a building that was already up and was vacant was argued about, because CMHC could not decide

which of their regional offices had the mortgage to this property. We wrote letters back and forth, as my federal member did; we visited with them, as they say; we talked with our community group, which was trying to put in a co-operative in an empty building; finally, we did find out that one office had the deed, and they transferred it to another office, so we were able to convert an empty building, which is actually quite a nice one, into a co-op unit.

But it took two years of argument and battle, and the resources of a federal member of Parliament and a provincial member of parliament, and a nonprofit co-op group in my community to make that happen. It was clear to us that the federal government was not on our side. They were our enemies. We battled with them.

I think there is a measure of truth here, that the federal government has lots of land. If they really wanted to, without providing direct funding, they could certainly guarantee a lot of mortgage money to build low-cost housing in Canada, if they chose to, but they do not. They could surely provide some assistance in startup costs, but they do not. They have the agencies in place that know all about real estate, development and building, and they could be a tremendous asset in trying to combat what many of us think is clearly a crisis; but they choose not to.

Now let me not pass without mentioning for a moment or two that the provincial government in Ontario cannot exactly throw a whole lot of rocks at the federal government. Granted it started from scratch a couple of years ago, granted the problems are not easy, but there are some things that I think the government should have accomplished by now. I think in three years' time it should have been able to figure out just exactly how much land it owns. I do not think that is impossible.

I think that in three years' time it could have figured out what works and what does not work, because in this country we have tried a lot of things, from what essentially might be called in some quarters bribing people to provide housing, to giving away money to people who had already bought a house, to allowing people to do tax write-offs on investments. We know that some of these things, however attractive they might have looked initially, do not work.

We also know what does work. We have enough experience now to know that when a level of government—at any level—sets its mind to providing affordable housing, it can do that. It can do that on a scale that is really quite

impressive. If it really wanted to, the province of Ontario, by itself, could solve its own housing problem, but it does not want to. It owns 90 per cent of the land mass in the province. The putting together of land for housing is not its problem. It has the ability to finance projects, not give the money directly, but lend its support, its financial weight to finance projects on a scale that absolutely boggles the mind. If you multiply that by 10, you have some concept of the ability of the federal government to be a participant in resolving this problem.

I want to conclude by saying that it is easy this morning—and I hope we will have some such comment because it is fun—to do numbers on the federal government for being absolutely, totally incompetent and part of the major problem that has created a housing crisis in Canada. We should not forget that. They do deserve to be booted around the block time and time again for living in mansions in Ottawa while people in Toronto live in cardboard boxes, because that is the truth.

Mr. Jackson: You mean the kind of house John Turner lives in?

Mr. Breaugh: It is true that John Turner lives in a similar kind of house in Ottawa.

Mr. Jackson: And in Toronto.

Mr. Breaugh: The only one who had to buy his own was Ed Broadbent.

Mr. Jackson: That is right.

Mr. Breaugh: But that is not the point. The point is that if we really wanted to solve a housing crisis, it is absolutely true that governments in this country could do so and they are choosing not to.

It is true that it will not work or it will be more difficult to do unless all the levels of government that we have participate. Unless they all get their act together and go in the same direction, it is not going to work. It is fine for the brand-new federal Minister of Housing to announce rather grandly that a big chunk of property in Toronto is going to be made available for housing, but it is absolutely untrue to say that is going to happen unless he had the brains to talk to the mayor of that municipality, and he did not; and unless he had the common sense to talk to the provincial government and he did not. It is absolutely true that nothing is going to happen there for at least three, four or five years, if then. If the government wanted to, it could, but it is choosing not to.

I want to conclude by saying that it really is disgusting that there are enough people around with brains, knowledge and political experience,

that we could resolve this problem, not overnight but in short order. It is sad to say that in this rich society, the people who drive around in the limousines do not give a damn about the people who live in cardboard boxes, but it is true. It is also true that people at the lower end of the economic scale are now seen to be the tax cows for governments. That is disgusting.

Is it not reasonable that the big corporations in the land ought to pay at least as much income tax as secretaries who work in offices, as factory workers who make things for us, as farmers? But it is true? Is it not also true that we all know in this chamber this morning, and I sense in the federal parliament and on municipal councils that we have a major problem on our hands that affects everybody, in a different way, but everybody?

It is true, oddly enough, and I agree with the Toronto Real Estate Board, that a relevant question these days is, "Where will our children live? Who can afford to buy a house? Who can afford to rent a house? Where will it be?" I think our society is coming together to realize that we at least have a problem here. Now is the time for governments at all levels to stop bellyaching about it and to get their respective acts together and to resolve it.

It is not a bad idea this morning to start with some mild criticism of the federal government of Canada because it surely deserves it. When we have done that, perhaps Ontario and each of our municipalities could do their fair share in resolving that problem. If we did it, the problem would not go away overnight but it would not stay with us quite as long.

1130

Mr. Cureatz: It gives me a great deal of privilege to stand this morning to speak on this resolution and following my colleague and next-door neighbour in my area the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh).

I want to say how frustrating it is to have a mere, humble 10 minutes because I can tell members, as wont as I am from time to time to go on at great length about this resolution, I have to say, of course, the people at home who are tuning in are probably not doing so at this live performance, of which there are so many people in attendance and not very many Liberals, I might add, who have 94 seats. If they felt so strongly about this resolution, there would be Liberals packed in these chambers to condemn—

Mr. J. B. Nixon: We'll be here to vote.

Mr. Cureatz: Well the people of Ontario made their fine decision to only select 17 of us, and there are a number of responsibilities in these

chambers, as the member well knows—to attend committees, etc. etc. Those guys were elected. They have got the huge majority. Where the heck are they all to support this resolution? I say to the people at home, I am digressing a little bit.

Mr. Fleet: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cureatz: Some of them might catch this.

Mr. Fleet: Mr. Speaker, there have been previous rulings in this House about commentary on the absence of members, and I raise that as a point of order. It has been ruled on, on a Thursday morning in particular, I recall, when private members' business is being conducted. I would ask that be drawn to the attention of the honourable member last speaking.

Mr. Cureatz: Well, I will add another minute onto my diatribe, Mr. Speaker, since that is hardly a point of order. If the member would read his standing orders he would know that.

I say to the people at home, and I remind members that some of them might be catching this later this evening on the repeat as they are changing channels. I will bring them up to date on what this is all about. The member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon) has introduced a resolution condemning the federal government on its housing policy.

Well, this has nothing to do with the honourable member personally. I have nothing but the highest respect for him. We have sat on a number of committees together. On the insurance bill in the standing committee on administration of justice, I have to say he did his homework and did an admirable job.

But on this resolution, I have to say that my colleague who has brought forward this resolution is out to lunch. I would be able to say, over the number of years when we sat in the government and dealt with the federal Liberals when they were in power there was lack of leadership in the housing industry. Goodly enough, he comes forward with this resolution. It is a catch-all. I caught a bit of him on television before I came up here to give my speech and I will say the honourable member was full of statistics. He could not reach out into his speech and say, "Well, this is what we are condemning the federal government about right here."

The people at home would be turning him off so fast because, quite frankly, he did not make a lot of sense. The people at home, let me tell them why this resolution was really brought in. Let's talk about the politics of this place. I will tell them why it was brought in. We are in the midst of a federal election and there had to be some kind of negotiations from the front bench, the

four people who really run it over here, with John Turner. They said: "Listen, John, you are not looking too bad in the polls now. Let's help you out a little bit. We are going to see who the next private member's resolution is and we are going to condemn the federal Tories for the housing policy. That is a little political payoff that we are going to do."

It has nothing to do about how the member feels about it. I will tell them why I know that is what has happened because it happened to me 10 years ago. I got a call from Bud Gregory after my first year sitting way over there right where "Baloney" is. He found me at the Benmiller Inn with my wife so we could have five days of vacation together. There is Bud three days later phoning me. He said, "Sam, the Premier wants you to reply to the speech from the throne." Well, what did I know way back then? I did not know anything about the speech from the throne, I have to tell the members, just like this new member does not know anything.

I said, "Okay, I'll do that." And do you know what? As a matter of fact, I even wrote my own speech and gave it to Dave Surplis who was running the show, and he gave it back vetted. He said, "That's what you say." I got up and read it. I did not like what was there, but I went ahead anyway. I said to myself, "I've just been bamboozled." And that is what has happened to him. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) came up and said, "Brad, we've got a little speech for you to make. We have got to try to help John Turner win some more seats in Ontario. We want to come out. Who knows? I want to leave my options open so I can run"—oh, the member over here from Niagara is laughing.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: The truth is, I say to the people at home, this is real politics and this is what is happening with this resolution, because if the truth be known—and I only have about four minutes and 30 seconds—I would be talking about what the Liberals are doing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The member will address his remarks through the chair, please.

Mr. Cureatz: Let's talk about what the Liberals are doing and then about the housing policy.

Here, they are condemning the federal government. Holy smokes, I have reams of it here. I could spend all delightful morning discussing what they are not doing. And do you know the first thing that comes to mind? Passing the dollar. Have you heard about that one? You know,

passing the dollar. We heard about it on Sunday shopping. And you wait until we start going on that one when it finally gets in here and you people have enough gumption to close it in committee. We will hear all about Sunday shopping and passing it to the municipalities.

This resolution is doing the same thing because a good part of the problem lies right here. Why does he not stand up and say, "Let's condemn the federal and provincial and municipal governments about housing"? Let's be truthful about this. Let's not cast a net across the whole federal scene.

I agree with my colleague, the member for Oshawa. I fight with the feds all the time and I fight with the provincial people and the municipal people; as we all do. But, no, he comes rolling in—and I feel sorry for you. And do you know what, Brad? I am embarrassed for you, and you have learned your lesson. You know what? They will not respect you, those four guys. Do you think you are going to get into cabinet doing this? No way. They just used you as a filler and the Premier can phone up Turner and say, "Listen. We did it. Okay, you owe me one." And we will see what happens. If they make it, the Premier will have a few IOUs. If they do not make it, you have been used and your hopes for cabinet are finished, because when the election comes, I will tell you, it will not matter a hoot; you are on your own, and you would be far better bringing something about the concerns that you have for your constituents in your own riding than this catch-all policy.

Do you want to talk about passing the buck? Here is the Hamilton Spectator, I do not think well-known as a great bastion of Toryism. The editorial of the Spectator talks about the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins). Do you know what they did, according to the Spectator? "They performed a political miracle by passing the buck to municipalities. If the cabinet is reckless enough to approve this cynical scam, local taxpayers will have to clean up the provincial government's mess on the housing crisis in Ontario."

"As the minister has made clear, the municipalities had better solve it or Queen's Park will punish them. And if Ontario wants the municipalities to rescue the victims of bad," bad, bad—I added the two extra "bads"—"provincial housing policy, let Ontario give them the money they'll need for the job."

Where are you people solving the housing crisis? And you are coming in—well, I am so

happy that my colleague has made it back from the other side of the world to come back to reality here in these chambers. And what else have they had to say about the housing policies of the Liberal government?

The editorial in the Windsor Star, away at the other end of the province: "What is also disturbing about the province's plan is that it has committed no new money to assist municipalities with the cost of additional sewers, utilities and other services they might be forced to install as part of a requirement to have a two-year supply of available residential building lots on hand.

"What the Ontario government is trying to do is to sell a little more than it made for the Toronto solution." They are passing the dollar again. And what does my colleague come out with? He comes out with a catch-all net to try to condemn the federal government. I have 34 seconds left.

I have a caption of overviews of major groups, housing, rental and landlords, who condemn the provincial policies here about housing. I could go on at great length about our star Minister of Housing, the great and wonderful rising star and how she has fallen flat. She has not performed to expectations. All kinds of great and wonderful editorials; we can go on with the headlines.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, if you have not gathered yet, I will not be supporting this resolution.

1140

Mr. Fleet: I would first like to congratulate the honourable member for York Mills who gave a particularly thoughtful, detailed and well-reasoned speech, which was also hard-hitting and I thought ample justification to support this resolution, as I will do.

When one considers the speech from the honourable member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), he never once defended in the whole ten-minute diatribe, although it was lively and entertaining, the inaction or the activities of the federal government. After all, the resolution deals with the federal government.

In this speech, what I will be doing is touching on some of the examples of the Mulroney government record, and secondly, looking at some of the alternatives that could and should have been done, and with some luck, the next federal government under John Turner will carry out. Certainly, the national Liberal alternatives deal with co-operation between governments, having a national housing strategy, providing help for those who need it most, and in addition to that, help for first-time home buyers.

The Mulroney government's approach to housing policy can be very easily summed up as a washing of federal hands and a transferring of almost all of the responsibility to the provinces. Clearly, Mulroney and his government have no belief in the need for a national housing strategy or national leadership.

In fact, the members here will be astonished to learn that at a very significant public debate during the federal election, which occurred in Toronto last night, we had a representative from the New Democratic Party present, and John Nunziata ably represented the Liberal party position, but oddly enough, not one, single Conservative federal candidate could be found who would show up at the meeting. Let alone what he might say, they were not even willing to come to the meeting. That is an astonishing development in the middle of a federal election.

We should not be too surprised. After all, in the 1984 election, we had a campaign where Mulroney made hundreds of promises, one of which was to strengthen and expand co-operative housing programs. Right after that election and contrary to the promise he made, they cut back on funding for co-operatives and introduced new policies that effectively reduced the number of co-op units from 5,500 units a year to only 3,200 units a year.

In addition, the proportion of units that received low-income rent supplements fell from 42 to 30 per cent. Despite a waiting list of 17,000 persons for subsidized housing in 1987, the Conservative co-op program funded just 126 units in the Metropolitan Toronto area, of which 37 were earmarked for low income families.

Between 1984 and 1987, federal capital funding for housing, perhaps the most important single source of federal funding, was cut by 61 per cent. It is an astonishing reality of Conservative priorities—shameful indeed. During the same period, grants and subsidies under the residential rehabilitation assistance program, known as RRAP, were rapped very hard and cut from \$202 million to \$131 million, a 35 per cent slash.

Between 1984 and 1987, the total subsidies and grants budget for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. fell 13 per cent, from \$1.7 billion to just under \$1.5 billion. Cumulatively, these funding cuts totalled \$606 million from 1984. An astonishing development occurred in 1986. That was the year when for the first time ever, federal spending on social housing actually fell. Never before had that occurred under any prior government.

One might well ask, what was being planned in 1988 by CMHC? Indeed, it is a very good question. The answer is that their corporate plan says the federal government intends to withdraw completely from funding of capital costs for joint federal-provincial public housing projects. It is really astonishing that they would want to pull right out.

I do not want to be unfair to the Conservatives. They say they want to put more emphasis on the rent supplement program. Of course, they intend to cut back everywhere else in the nonprofit sector in order to do that. Even if they do add money for rent supplements, it does not add one cent, it does not add one little bit of assistance to people who need new affordable housing units to be built.

Another thing one would undoubtedly find astonishing about the Conservatives federally is that when they bring out all of their wonderful papers, in over four years there is not a single mention of the word "homeless" in all their housing papers. They have put out lots of papers, but they are not interested in dealing with the homeless.

Although it was mentioned earlier by the member for York Mills, I think the comment made by John McDermid, Mulroney's Minister of State (Housing), bears repeating. When he was asked about shelter for street people, he said: "There is no excuse for anyone not finding a roof over their head. When we look at the so-called street people"—just "so-called" somehow—"it is not just a lack of hostels. Other factors are involved. Some of these people are free spirits and love to live that lifestyle."

McDermid is so insensate, so uncaring, that he seems to think the homeless are lucky to be without shelter, that they are lucky to be without a home. That is an absolutely disgusting approach for them to take in the federal government, a total lack of moral direction, a total lack of guidance in this nation.

Since the time I am allowed does not permit me to touch on all the initiatives of the provincial government, I will only use one example. It is a perfect example of the contrast in styles between the provincial Liberals and the federal Conservatives.

We have St. Lawrence Square. We recently announced that we will be involved heavily, in co-operation with the city of Toronto, in redeveloping underutilized industrial lands. It is a \$1.2-billion contribution. We might ask, what are the feds going to do? The short answer is that they are going to sell the land at top dollar. They

are not going to provide any help at all. When some 5,000 families move in, they should be well aware that the federal government did not provide a nickel to help house those people.

The Downsview airport fiasco has already been mentioned earlier, but I think one should consider the views of Mayor Mel Lastman. Mayor Lastman is a well-known Conservative. He is also known, of course, for quiet understatement. What does he say? Since his community was supposed to be helped, he said, "This housing project is fantasy land, an obvious election ploy that will never get off the ground." He has condemned his own party; he has condemned the federal Tories, and rightly so.

What about the Liberal alternatives? What has been announced? What should have been done by these terrible Tories?

For example, there has been an announcement by John Turner, in my riding of High Park-Swansea I might add, an announcement that would very much help the people who live in my riding, of relief for hard-hit renters with a refundable tax credit for all households with renters paying more than 30 per cent of their income on housing needs, to a maximum of \$2,500 per year which would be refundable; direct assistance even for people who are not paying income tax, graduated to increase with the number of children in the family; advanced monthly, so payments would be available to help people meet the rent. No red tape, because it would be reconcilable with annual income tax returns. It would be direct assistance, not just in Ontario but across all of Canada, to some 1.2 million Canadians.

The Liberals have also announced they would reintroduce the registered home ownership program, cut off quite improperly by the Tories. It is exactly what we need to help people buy their first home. It would be a way people could save up to \$2,000 per year for 10 years, with a maximum tax credit of 25 per cent of the savings.

The list goes on. We have things like a federal audit of lands, to identify them. Those surplus lands, under the Liberals, would be dedicated to affordable housing purposes. We want to increase the core-need targeting of the RRAP funds I referred to earlier; a doubling of nonprofit and co-operative units allocated annually to 40,000 per year; a commitment to spend \$5 billion over five years for program cost-sharing with provincial and municipal governments to rebuild roads, to add sewers, to do all the things that are necessary; to eliminate substandard housing on native reserves; to provide a three-tiered compre-

hensive strategy for emergency relief; preventive measures and long-term solutions for people who are homeless.

These are the positive initiatives the federal Liberals will do, and that is why I support, and encourage all of us to support, this resolution.

1150

Mr. Laughren: May I first of all commend the member for York Mills for his resolution and the way he unblushingly carries on the federal election campaign here in this provincial chamber, but I did enjoy his speech, as I did that of the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet).

I think I appreciated the rather philosophic bent of the member for York Mills, particularly his comment at the beginning of his speech that he regarded housing as a right in Canada and that it was strange that the Conservatives have always talked about entrenching property rights in the Constitution, but never housing. I think that speaks volumes about a social attitude by the federal, and I might add, the provincial Conservatives.

I must say, however, that I do understand the member for York Mills. I am sure that before he prepared his speech—I am sure he did not allow anyone to prepare it for him; I do not believe anybody else could have written that speech other than the member for York Mills.

An hon. member: Well done.

Mr. Laughren: Well, you can interpret that in whatever way you want, but I really do believe the member for York Mills sat back and said to himself, "You know, I think the best defence is a good offence," because to defend his own government's record on housing would be extremely difficult. It is much, much easier to go and attack the federal Tories on their housing programs than it is to defend the indefensible housing programs of the Ontario Ministry of Housing.

I mean, here in the province of Ontario we have 10,000 homeless in the city of Toronto, they tell me, and 20,000 across the province, if those numbers are still accurate, and yet we have a Minister of Housing who I understand did not even spend all of her social housing budget last year. She did not even spend all that was allocated to her by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). What kind of concern is that for those people who most desperately need housing when the minister does not even spend all that is appropriately allocated to her ministry? It makes no sense whatsoever. It is almost like a contradiction.

A couple of years ago, we had a very severe housing problem in Sudbury, and I can recall one family living in a motel room while there was a house owned by CMHC—it had been repossessed, as I recall, by CMHC—that was empty while a family lived in a motel. There were a number of us who discovered one morning that the padlock on the door had been cut and that the door was indeed open, and so we helped the family move into the CMHC house. Well, you should have heard the screaming, by the Tories especially, that we had invaded someone's private property. They seemed to think there was some kind of logic that there was an empty house sitting there owned by the state, while you had a family with kids living in a motel room. If members saw those two things, I think most reasonable people in our society would say that there is something wrong, and therefore a group of us moved the family into the empty house.

By the way, members do not need to dwell on the problems of urban housing in this province. I would invite members to visit northern Indian reserves in this province and take a look at the quality of housing in the north. I know that some members have done that. As members, they will come back, I think, changed people. Perhaps that is stating it a little strongly, but it is a profound experience to visit the small Indian reserves at James Bay, Hudson Bay, up north of Pickle Lake in the northwest. It is truly a profound experience.

At some point, we as a society are going to have to recognize our responsibilities there. At this point, we have not done that. I know nothing gives the two senior levels of government more enjoyment, almost a malicious enjoyment it seems, than the game of jurisdictional ping-pong they play with our native people on questions of housing. You should hear the way they talk, and the native people in the far north are the victims of that jurisdictional ping-pong.

It would not be appropriate if I did not say in this debate that the federal New Democrats have a housing policy. I agree with the member for York Mills that the federal Tories are sadly lacking in their attitude towards housing. I will not requote the federal Minister of State (Housing), Mr. McDermid, in his comments about housing, but I thought it would be appropriate in the time remaining to put on the record a few of the things federal New Democrats believe.

A New Democratic government would quickly convene a housing action summit of private and public sector actors, including nonprofit housing developers and private developers,

housing advocates and all three levels of government. The federal New Democrats would increase the federal commitment to nonprofit and co-op housing to 50,000 units per year, at least 10,000 of which would be co-op units. A \$10-million fund will be created to help organizations that provide shelter to the homeless and an additional 1,000 units a year would be allocated for native housing.

We would use federal lands for affordable housing. The federal government would sell part of its significant landholdings for housing development, with the provision that at least 50 per cent of the housing be affordable for low- and middle-income families. We would have a sensible tax policy. We have condemned the Conservatives' \$100,000 capital gains tax exemption for fuelling completely unproductive speculation in the housing market.

Further, we would not proceed with the Conservative government's intention of applying the new federal sales tax to housing, which would increase the price of a \$100,000 home. Of course, I know talking about a \$100,000 home in Metropolitan Toronto is fanciful, but for those people who do still live in a world of \$100,000 homes, it could increase the price of that home by as much as \$9,000. Here we have the federal government, the federal Tories, if they get their way, determined to go ahead with this new federal sales tax that would put that kind of interest on the cost of housing.

The provincial government's hands are not clean either. Here we have the Treasurer and the Premier refusing to take any action whatsoever on the rapidly escalating price of homes in Metropolitan Toronto. I never thought I would see the day when the average price of a resale home in Metro was \$189 short of \$250,000; \$249,811 is the average price of a resale home in Metropolitan Toronto for the month of October 1988. As long as this government is content to simply throw stones at the federal government and not put in place a sensible housing program of its own, it too stands condemned.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York Mills has reserved two minutes.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I would like to assure the members opposite, in particular one member, that indeed I wrote the speech. No one asked me to write it; it was not vetted by anyone. I wrote it and I spoke and put it before the House because I thought it had to be said. It is obvious to me that it is an important issue and an issue the federal government has not taken seriously.

I can give just one brief example. If you go to downtown Toronto, you will find young men and young women who have medical problems, who have not completed their education, who need skills training, and the federal government has cut back on the budgets for medical care, for education, for skills training. But what those people will tell you is that first of all, before they get their skills training, their health care and their education, they need a place to stay.

If you look at where they are staying, you will find they are staying in a warehouse that is unheated. They get a cup of coffee in the morning and then they are thrown out on the street. If members do not think that is a problem that should be spoken to in this House, a problem that should be spoken to in this election, then I ask them what should be spoken to?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: Finally, I would point out that the federal government has committed to the production of the exact sum total of 37 co-op units this year in the city of Toronto; that is all the federal government has committed to. Province-wide, the provincial government has committed to over 3,000. I think the record is clear. I think the federal government has done nothing other than demonstrate an inadequate policy and also a complete failure to co-operate with other levels of government in establishing an adequate housing policy.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the discussion time for private members' public business. We will now deal with resolution 39, Mr. Sterling's motion for second reading of Bill 157.

12:06

MUNICIPAL SMOKING BY-LAW AUTHORIZATION ACT

The House divided on Mr. Sterling's motion for second reading of Bill 157, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Allen, Ballinger, Black, Brandt, Breagh, Bryden, Callahan, Campbell, Charlton, Collins, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cureatz, Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Eves, Faubert, Fawcett, Fleet, Furlong, Grier, Hart, Henderson, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kanter, Keyes,

Laughren, LeBourdais, Lipsett, Mackenzie, Mahoney, Martel, Matrundola, McClelland, Morin, Nixon, J. B., Owen, Philip, E., Pollock,

Poole, Rae, B., Ruprecht, Sola, South, Sterling, Stoner, Villeneuve, Wildman, Wilson.

Nays

Ferraro, Miller, Roberts, Tatham.

Ayes 53; nays 4.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

1216

FEDERAL HOUSING POLICY

The House divided on Mr. J. B. Nixon's motion of resolution 49, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Allen, Ballinger, Black, Breaugh,

Bryden, Callahan, Campbell, Charlton, Collins, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Furlong, Grier, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kanter, Keyes, Laughren, Lipsett, Mackenzie, Mahoney, Martel, Matrundola, McClelland, Miller, Morin, Morin-Strom, Nixon, J. B., Owen, Philip, E., Poole, Rae, B., Roberts, Ruprecht, Sola, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Wildman, Wilson.

Nays

Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Eves, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Pollock, Sterling, Villeneuve.

Ayes 49; nays 9.

The House recessed at 12:20 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL

Mr. Wildman: Ever since the federal Conservatives initiated negotiations with the Reagan administration on a so-called free trade deal, the New Democrats in this House have been pressing the provincial Liberals for action to protect the interests of Ontario. Instead, what we have received from the government is a lot of election rhetoric and subsequent promises, but complete inaction.

When after some considerable period of delay the government introduced so-called anti-free-trade legislation last June, we looked at the legislation and hoped it would in fact show that the provincial administration was determined to protect Ontario's interests.

When the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) finally introduced An Act respecting transfers of Water, he made a speech saying it closed the door on the export of water from the provincial drainage basin. At that time, I responded by saying we supported this in principle and would be having to look at the bill to analyse it to determine whether or not it did that.

As members know, we have subsequently analysed the bill and found it wanting. We have suggested amendments to the minister that would close the door on exports of water. We have yet to see whether the minister is prepared to accept those amendments. All he has said is he would accept amendments which are appropriate.

It is completely inappropriate for this government to want to license the export of any water from the provincial drainage basin.

CIVIL SERVANTS' LEGAL FEES

Mr. Runciman: In the light of the failure of the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) to respond to some very serious matters I raised with him last week in respect of the government funding of a crown employee's lawsuit against the Church of Scientology and the Globe and Mail, I would like to put some of the facts on the record. This supposedly open government refused to provide information on this matter until compelled to do so under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

In February 1988, the chief administrative officer of the criminal law division of the Ministry of the Attorney General clearly indicated in writing that he did not want the use of government funds financing a private lawsuit to be easily identified. He suggested they be allocated to accounts other than those associated with the office where the individual filing the lawsuit worked. As a result, the expenditure was listed in a travel/claims account, thereby making it virtually impossible for anyone perusing the ministry's accounts to detect the real reason for the expenditure.

Is that an appropriate or justifiable accounting procedure? I doubt that any accountant worth his salt would think so, and it should be cause for concern to a minister responsible for overseeing government expenditures. The minister has not shown that concern, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

I was advised yesterday by the Provincial Auditor's office that within the next six months the auditor will review the appropriateness of this creative accounting and report to the Legislature. Perhaps then this minister's efforts to obscure the facts from public view through obfuscation and personal insults will come back to haunt him and his government. I am looking forward to that day.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Faubert: I wish to commend the government for showing leadership in transportation issues in the greater Toronto area. Members will recall that last May the provincial government announced new transportation directions for the greater Toronto area. I am pleased to note the significant progress already made in starting many of the proposed projects.

A centrepiece of the plan, greater fare integration of the provincial GO Transit network with Metro's Toronto Transit Commission, is already well under way. With the recent announcement of Twin Pass sales at all Metro GO Transit stations, commuters in Toronto now have both transit options more conveniently available. I understand that sales of the passes well exceed initially projected figures.

Expansion of the GO Transit network is and will be taking place both east and west of Metro. I have saved the best for last. In a recent letter to TTC chairman Jeff Lyons, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) indicated this gov-

ernment's willingness to proceed with financial assistance for the necessary first steps to define and protect the Sheppard subway corridor, all of it from Yonge Street through to the Scarborough City Centre. In doing so, the minister has exceeded Metro's request in setting the Yonge to Victoria Park Avenue corridor as its first priority.

With this move, the provincial government has acknowledged that, in planning a major transportation corridor such as this, one cannot simply draw a line on the map and proceed. A project of this magnitude takes careful planning and requires the necessary first steps in protecting the corridor.

I commend the government and the minister for leadership in transportation in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Bryden: I would like to draw to the attention of the House that we have with us in the gallery today one of the largest groups of students ever to visit the House together. They are 120 students from Notre Dame High School in my riding.

I congratulate their teacher, Joe Pacione, on bringing such a large group to visit the Legislature in order to give them a view of where and how our laws are made.

I am sure they will be interested in our discussion today on things connected particularly with education, and I hope that they will hear some commitments to further increases in educational grants so that we can have modern, 20th-century education in all our schools.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: The transfer of schools between public and separate school boards as a result of Bill 30 is a sensitive and serious matter. When this Legislature passed this bill extending full funding to Roman Catholic separate schools, we established two specific ground rules for school transfers: first, the public had to be involved in the decision to transfer a school; and, second, any transfer decisions had to be made by elected trustees who are directly accountable to parents and ratepayers.

The Ministry of Education, in its dealings with the Lakehead boards of education, has broken both of these ground rules. The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) sent a government official to Thunder Bay to call together the two directors of education. These three men met secretly in a hotel and agreed that Lakeview High School should be given to the separate school board. The

trustees of that board were not consulted until after the decision had been made. This was a clear violation of one of those ground rules.

Parents suspected that something was up and applied under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for access to the memorandum of agreement. A ministry official, Patricia Llewellyn, said no such document existed. Then the ministry said that a document did exist but that no specific school was mentioned. Only on November 4 did parents obtain access to the memorandum, signed by three people, which gives Lakeview High School away to the separate board.

The Conservative Party believes that schools should be transferred only by elected trustees and after full public consultation.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Jackson: In Thunder Bay, this government did neither.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. Ruprecht: Today we will pay tribute to those brave men and women who gave their lives in the defence of our country. But for Canadians of Polish heritage, that day has added significance, since November 11 is Polish Independence Day. After the occupation forces were expelled from Poland in 1918, a free, reunited and independent Poland was established on November 11. For Polish Canadians, November 11 means freedom, the freedom they continue to hope for in their native country.

We are reminded by the anniversary of Polish Independence Day that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance and that true peace must be built on the principles of freedom, liberty and democracy for all people and all nations.

By their observance of that day, Polish Canadians keep alive the hope and the struggle for a free and independent Poland and ensure that Canadians continue to appreciate how fortunate they are to live in a society that is blessed and based on the principles of liberty, justice and tolerance.

Today we take great pride in the accomplishments of Polish Canadians here in Canada and we wish them well as they celebrate Polish Independence Day.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr. Morin-Strom: Recently, members of the Legislature had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Ontario forest products

industries and they made a very effective presentation on behalf of their industry regarding various concerns they have, particularly with the Ministry of Natural Resources in its programs to regenerate our forests. We heard quite clearly that forest renewal in northern Ontario is not going on to the extent that the forests are being depleted, particularly on the crown lands that are the responsibility of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

1340

We have an obligation as a province to ensure that we provide for the future wellbeing of the residents of northern Ontario and the critical jobs that are associated with that most important industry. I would call on the minister to take the concerns of the forest industry seriously and address the problems that are being faced by that industry, and in particular ensure that he puts the money back into his budget so that we can maintain and improve the level of regeneration going on in the north, rather than cutting the programs, as he has done most recently.

NATASHA KHAASSIN

Mr. Speaker: Before I call the next order of business, I would like to ask all members of the assembly to recognize in the Speaker's gallery Natasha Khassin. Mrs. Khassin is one of the heroes of Soviet Jewry and is visiting the United States and Canada. Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Khassin.

I have also arranged that a representative of each party would have a few moments to offer words of welcome.

Mr. Allen: It is truly an honour for us to have Natasha Khassin with us this afternoon. She is currently completing a tour of North America to call attention to the problems that continue in the Soviet Union for Soviet Jewry and in particular for the refuseniks.

Natasha Khassin is one of the truly heroic voices of religious freedom of our time. She has put her life on the line time and again in the Soviet Union so that her fellow Soviet Jews and the refuseniks in particular might have the kind of support and sustenance that they need to continue their struggle.

When in 1976 the Soviet leadership of the refusenik movement began to disappear, either into prisons or to Israel, and that leadership waned, it was Natasha Khassin who stepped into the breach and took on their functions, the many, many functions they have performed as a collective group, and carried forward with the

leadership that they had provided, doing it almost singlehandedly.

She took on many dangerous roles, trying to provide defence for prisoners, trying to research cases and get information that would publicize cases. She also provided a home for those who left prison, who came and stayed with her while they found their feet again. It was at her place that the Alberts conducted their very famous 45-day fast, which eventually led to their leaving the Soviet Union. She herself, in fact, put her life in danger and was constantly harassed and threatened by the KGB and by authorities in the Soviet Union.

She was more than a present help in a time of trouble, she was a tower of strength and a beacon of religious liberty for all those who love the freedom of the human spirit. We are deeply honoured that she is here. We would call attention to the fact that she is not at the moment simply speaking of people in the abstract. She is here also to speak specifically for Boris Chernobilski, who at the moment is seeking an exit from the Soviet Union. She wants in particular for us to remember Boris Chernobilski and people like him who have their lives severely curtailed in the most fundamental ways and in ways that most of us are able to live out and express in our lives here in Canada.

It is a great honour for me to rise and to pay this tribute to Natasha Khassin and to welcome her to our midst this afternoon.

Mr. Cousens: It is with great pleasure that I rise to welcome Natasha Khassin, a most distinguished visitor to our Legislature today. Mrs. Khassin has been referred to as one of the great heroes of Soviet Jewry. I say to all members today that Mrs. Khassin's accomplishments make her a hero to all people around the world who strive for freedom from persecution, freedom from repression and freedom to live their lives in peace.

In April 1987, Natasha Khassin, along with her husband, Dr. Gennady Khassin, and daughter Yehudit, were finally allowed to leave the Soviet Union, after a 12-year fight. They are now reunited in Israel with daughter Ilona and their two young grandsons.

During those years of waiting, Mrs. Khassin's valiant ways to campaign against the KGB often found her victim to constant surveillance, attacks in the press, threats of arrest and even threats on her own life; all of this to deter one brilliant and courageous woman from fighting for free emigration for all Jewish people in the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Khassin's tireless campaign has been wide-ranging, from providing material assistance to prisoners, to travelling across the countryside gathering evidence in their defence, to sheltering as many refuseniks as her small apartment would allow. Many of us will remember the emotional day in February 1986 when TV viewers from around the world shared Nathan Shcharansky's mother's joy at the news of his release. This unforgettable event was witnessed from Mrs. Khassin's apartment.

She graces this House today as part of a 10-city tour across North America in her continuing fight for Soviet refuseniks, notably Boris Chernobilski, refused permission for 12 years and the only refusenik who has been in prison twice as a prisoner of conscience, and also working for Yuli Kosharovski, refused permission to emigrate for 17 years.

On behalf of our party, I join with my colleagues of the Ontario Legislature Committee for Soviet Jewry and the Beth Tikvah congregation in welcoming Mrs. Khassin to our country and to extend to her our deepest thanks for her contribution to humanity. Today is truly a celebration.

Mr. Offer: As one of the co-chairmen of this Legislature's committee for Soviet Jewry, it is a great honour for me and our party to rise in order to recognize the distinguished visitor, Natasha Khassin, who is with us today.

As has been indicated, Natasha Khassin is a former Soviet refusenik who had been denied permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union for many years. However, her work on behalf of others during her years of denial amply exemplifies a courage and indeed a heroism, because while inside the Iron Curtain she demonstrated a leadership for all Soviet Jews, whether it was a matter of providing aid to prisoners, travelling to remote locations to gather evidence for use in their legal defence and campaigns for western public support or openly defying the KGB, Natasha Khassin was there for anyone who needed her.

Natasha Khassin did this and much more. She cared for prisoners, working with them for their release, and she did this over and over for many, many years. It is a tribute to many concerned individuals, organizations and legislatures like ours which assisted and remained committed to helping our friends like Natasha Khassin emigrate from the Soviet Union. Co-operation from all levels of government combined with the efforts from our communities will ensure that

more Soviet Jews will be given the same opportunity as Natasha Khassin.

How appropriate it is for us to use this Legislature, a place which symbolizes a freedom of thought and speech, to bring to life not only her accomplishments but to once more remind all that it is a freedom which we have that others in other lands and other people do not.

On behalf of my party, I would personally like to wish Mrs. Khassin and her family the very best as they rebuild a new life in Israel.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is unanimous consent to make some remarks with regard to Remembrance Day.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed?

Agreed to.

1350

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Tomorrow, November 11, Canadians of all generations across Canada will pause to honour and to pay tribute to all the brave individuals who served and gave their all that we might live in freedom today. On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to express the respect and gratitude of the government of Ontario.

Canadian men and women have always responded quickly and with determination to defend the freedom and way of life that we enjoy today. This way of life is their memorial. Our freedom is their legacy, and the realization of world peace is the best monument we can erect in their honour.

For many people in this province and in this country, war is something remote, other than the occasional viewing of special programs of remembrance of Vimy, Dieppe, D-Day, etc. We have throughout our province and, yes, within the Ontario public service, those men and women who served with distinction and were decorated.

There are also those who know only too well the horrors of it all through confinement in prisoner-of-war or concentration camps. At the close of the Second World War, a well-known army general, in urging the twinning of sister communities throughout the world, said, "We have learned to win the war, but we have never learned to win the peace."

Our obligation is both to keep alive the memory of those who served and to do everything within our power to be windows to the world in international friendship and understanding. Tomorrow, Remembrance Day, we have that opportunity, and with appreciation through the leadership of our comrades of the Royal

Canadian Legion, to express our gratitude to those to whom we owe a tremendous debt.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Mr. B. Rae: This is always a day that members commemorate with, I know, a great sense of our history together as a country and our sense of what we owe to those young men and women who gave their lives in the First World War, in the Second World War and in Korea, as well as those, I might add, who have been very active in the United Nations peacekeeping forces for which we, along with a number of other countries, won a Nobel Peace Prize for 1988.

I am named for a great-uncle who died in the First World War. My grandmother lost two brothers in the space of two weeks, and when she gave me a medal commemorating my Uncle Bobby's life and his work in the armed forces of the United Kingdom, she told me this story. I found it hard to believe that someone would face that kind of tragedy. She said that is the way it was. As I talked with my father about his stories with his father in the First World War, I realized what an extraordinary slaughter, what an extraordinary loss of life it was.

It is said that Canada came of age in the First World War. If we did come of age in the First World War, it was a very difficult and painful birth indeed. It has been much commemorated in song and in poetry. There is always what I call the false poetry of a kind of phoney jingoism.

You will recall no doubt, Mr. Speaker, because of your being the representative from Stratford, that Canadians and Americans have had the opportunity over the last two years to see a remarkable play in Stratford called *Not for Heroes*. It is the story of the meeting between two great poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon, who met in basically a mental hospital in Scotland, because they were both unable to carry on fighting.

It was listening to that play and watching it that I think I wanted to simply pass on to members, rather than listening to words from me as I reflect on those great Canadians who sacrificed so much, as we all participate in the various Remembrance Day ceremonies, and we will all be doing it tomorrow, as we have all week, and look at the many faces with so many memories.

Perhaps I might just close by reciting some lines from a remarkable poem by Wilfred Owen. In it, he describes a meeting—he calls it “Strange Meeting”—between two soldiers who meet in hell. I will not read the whole poem, but I will read a part of it.

‘Strange friend,’ I said, ‘here is no cause to mourn.’

‘None,’ said the other, ‘save the undone years,
The hopelessness. Whatever hope is yours,
Was my life also; I went hunting wild
After the wildest beauty in the world,
Which lies not calm in eyes, or braided hair,
But mocks the steady running of the hour,
And if it grieves, grieves richlier than here.
For by my glee might many men have laughed,
And of my weeping something had been left,
Which must die now. I mean the truth untold,
The pity of war, the pity war distilled....
Courage was mine, and I had mystery,
Wisdom was mine, and I had mastery;...
I am the enemy you killed, my friend.
I knew you in this dark; for so you frowned
Yesterday through me as you jabbed and killed.

I parried; but my hands were loath and cold.
Let us sleep now...’

As we reflect on this day, we must make a commitment, all of us, to remember. Yes, to remember with as much distinction as we can, the extraordinary contribution in the lives, the memories, the dreams, the hopes of those whose hopes were dashed in sacrificing their all for our freedom and for our liberty, but let us remember as well these words: Never again.

Mr. Cousens: I am honoured, on behalf of our party, to be able to speak on this most important subject, because, indeed, all of us have special memories that go back to the great wars. The father of one of our members, the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), was killed during the Second World War.

I know many others were anxious to say something today, especially because of the young people in the gallery. I just hope that young people across our province will take a moment. Fortunately, schools are still in session on Remembrance Day now. May our schools and all the people of this province reflect with us on the meaning of the day that ended the Great War.

It all came to an end at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918, 70 years ago. It was supposed to be the war to end all wars. November 11 has since become an international day of remembrance in all the countries involved in that terrible war, to commemorate those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Here in Canada, we pay tribute to the more than 100,000 individuals who lost their lives in the First World War, the Second World War and the Korean conflict. We also honour those who have served in our armed forces. Fortunately, our

younger generation has not had to experience the horrors and the tragedies of war, but we all realize that, with our modern weapons of total destruction, it is impossible for any country to win a war.

On November 11, let us honour the courageous Canadians who gave their lives so that we might enjoy freedom and peace and renew our efforts to promote those principles throughout the world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a very special Canadian war hero who died in May of this year at age 83. Lieutenant-Colonel the Reverend John W. Foote, a Presbyterian minister, was the only Canadian chaplain to receive the Victoria Cross. He was awarded the British Empire's highest military honour for helping wounded Canadian soldiers from the beaches of Dieppe during that disastrous raid in August 1942. He was interned as a prisoner of war for the remainder of the war.

After the Second World War, John Foote was a senior chaplain at Camp Borden and then was elected as a member of this Legislature in 1948. He served in the cabinet of Premier Leslie Frost and was Minister of Correctional Services until he was forced by ill health to resign in 1957.

In 1982, Branch 580 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Grafton was named in his honour. He is one of the many veterans who is not around this year to share with us in the memory of November 11.

Each year there are fewer and fewer veterans to march to the cenotaph and deposit their poppies on the wreaths. Each year the memories of those wars become more distant and remote to many who were not there or who were not born at that time. Each year we must continue to remember and to make sure that our young people and those who come after us will never forget.

1400

Mr. Speaker: I believe, and I hope all members would agree, that it would be fitting to have a minute's silence. I would ask all members to rise and observe a minute's silence in remembrance of all those who gave their lives for us and for our country.

The House observed one minute's silence.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Just before I call the next order of business, I have just been informed that we have a visitor in the lower west gallery, Gerry Gibeault, MLA for

Edmonton-Mill Woods constituency in Alberta. Please join me in welcoming him.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

RAPPORT ANNUEL, CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DE L'ONTARIO SUR LA CONDITION FÉMININE

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Later today I will be tabling the 1987-88 annual report of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

The council's mandate is to advise the government of Ontario, through myself as minister responsible for women's issues, on matters relating to the status of women in Ontario.

During 1987-88, members of the council travelled to many parts of Ontario to hold public forums on a wide variety of issues and topics of particular concern to women.

Au cours de l'exercice 1987-1988, les membres du Conseil se sont rendus dans diverses régions de l'Ontario, afin de mener des débats publics sur diverses questions présentant un intérêt particulier pour les femmes.

Early in 1987 the council began a series of public consultations to learn about regional concerns facing sole-support mothers in Ontario. These consultations allowed members of the council to hear directly from the women affected by these issues.

The council made recommendations on these issues which have been given very careful study by the responsible ministries and the Ontario women's directorate. A written response to the recommendations by the council will be made soon.

Ideas from the public were also shared with council on such diverse topics as child care, the Constitution, francophone services, health, access to language programs for immigrant and visible minority women, pensions and on the role of women in the economy.

I would like to mention the government's recent appointments of seven new members to the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues. These new members are: Milagros Eustaquio of Mississauga, Kathleen Lahey of Kingston, Catherine McPherson of Toronto, Lana Mitchel of North Bay, Sherry Moreau of Kenora, Lucy Spencer of Ottawa and Lynn Zimmer of Peterborough.

The appointment of these very distinguished individuals strengthens the council's vital capacity to understand and communicate to government the concerns of all the women in Ontario, including women of visible and ethnic minorities, women with disabilities and women from the north and from rural areas.

My thanks go to council president Sandra Kerr, who succeeds outgoing president Sam Ion, and, indeed, to all the members of council, who have met with so many individuals and groups during the past year. Their suggestions for action will be studied carefully, and I look forward to continuing to receive the advice of council on the critical issues facing the women of this province.

Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the president of the council, Sandra Kerr, along with the executive officer of the council, Bridget Vianna, in the members' gallery.

DISASTER RELIEF

Hon. Mr. Phillips: As members are aware, Hurricane Joan struck Central America during the weekend of October 22, hitting Nicaragua with particular severity. More than 100 people were killed and over 300,000 were left homeless. Also, as members of all three parties recently told the House, the situation there is particularly critical.

At the same time as Hurricane Joan was going across Central America, Typhoon Ruby hit the Philippines, triggering torrential rains and causing flash floods. Before the cleanup was completed, a second typhoon hit. Together, both these disasters left hundreds of people reported dead or missing and at least 50,000 people homeless. International appeals for assistance were launched in both cases.

Today, in response to these requests, the government of Ontario will be giving two grants of \$100,000 each to the Ontario division of the Canadian Red Cross. This will assist the victims of the hurricane in Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America and the victims of the typhoons in the Philippines and other areas of the Pacific.

These two grants are consistent with Ontario's practice of making grants for emergency relief assistance on humanitarian grounds and thus contributing to the efforts of Canada and the international community in alleviating the suffering of victims of particularly serious natural disasters.

IDEA CORP.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I have received the Provincial Auditor's report on the review of the

IDEA Corp. that I requested on January 12, 1988, and I am tabling this report today. Honourable members will recall that I asked the Provincial Auditor to conduct a full inquiry into the operations of the IDEA Corp. and to report back to me.

The Provincial Auditor has prepared his independent and comprehensive report, for which I am sure all members of the House will thank him. The Provincial Auditor found no evidence that the IDEA investments were made for reasons other than commercial merit or the economic development interests of Ontario. Notwithstanding these findings, the auditor confirmed the general perception of IDEA as an organization plagued by problems from its inception in 1981. The report's findings support the government's decision to wind down the IDEA Corp.

The auditor was also specifically requested by me to report on concerns about political interference or conflicts of interest. Members will recall that it was questions of this type about PRA International which triggered our inquiry. The Provincial Auditor concludes that IDEA's decisions concerning PRA International were not affected by any political interference.

Members are familiar with the Graham Software and Wyda Systems matters. The standing committee on public accounts has had extensive dealings with these cases. The findings and impressions of the public accounts committee are generally confirmed by the auditor. I am sure the auditor would be receptive to discussing his conclusions in greater detail with members of the public accounts committee.

I also remind members that criminal charges have been laid against the principal of Wyda. In addition, a judgement in the amount of \$3.6 million has been obtained against this person and is currently being enforced. The government has also initiated a lawsuit against Graham Software Corp. I am confident this proceeding will ensure a final resolution of all outstanding issues.

The auditor was asked if there was any evidence that IDEA decisions involved any conflict of interest by IDEA officials or other irregularities of that nature. He has indicated that he found no evidence of political interference in this regard. The one possible case of conflict of interest is currently before the courts.

It was for these reasons that the government instituted numerous improvements in government lending and investment of funds and has ensured that a more stringent level of analysis is applied to all decisions of this nature. The

principal agencies that disburse funds are now either part of the development corporations or are linked to them in the analysis of proposals.

Cabinet has also approved a complete renewal of the development corporations. This initiative provides for tighter controls and increased supervision by the boards of directors of the development corporations. The Provincial Auditor is familiar with this renewal program and has indicated his support.

I will also be tabling the final report of Jack Biddell, whose findings were incorporated into the Provincial Auditor's report.

1410

RESPONSES

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to respond to two of the statements, if I might, the first by the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips).

On behalf of the members of my party, as well as those of us in the House who travelled to Nicaragua and have a special affinity with that struggling nation, I would like to thank the government for finding \$100,000 to put towards the disaster relief efforts which are so necessary in that country. This is the first time this government has seen fit to extend aid to that particular country, and I welcome it, even if it is only on the basis of relief for the disaster at this particular point. It will open the door, perhaps, to a further interest in assisting that country, especially now that there is a Bush regime in the United States.

My fear for the continued harassment of that nation will be continuing. It is about time our country showed some international guts and got on the side of helping that burgeoning democracy to continue.

For the people in the Philippines, this is also going to be a welcome announcement, because it has now suffered a second typhoon attack, as the minister and the House will know, and has had a very difficult time of it in recent weeks.

I hope that we might think about these amounts of money, though, the money we have given to Jamaica, around \$200,000, and now \$100,000 to each of the other two countries, in terms of what Lottario makes in a week and to think perhaps that we should be establishing a more consistent funding apparatus to make sure there is money available, not two weeks or two and a half weeks after a disaster, but as soon as possible, so that we can provide assistance. We might also think of providing development aid from this Legislature

that might allow countries to be able to handle their own disasters better when they occur.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Speaking briefly to the minister responsible for women's issues (Mr. Sorbara), I would just say that I have not been women's issues critic for long, but I am used to annual reports. I am frankly stunned by the lack of information that is available in the council's report, the lack of recommendations, the lack of any kind of focus. When I dealt with the disabled, there was always a list of recommendations. When I dealt with the elderly, there was always a list of recommendations.

I am very surprised that here, today, there is nothing about employment equity and what this government has not done on that, there is nothing about our abysmal record on parental leave and there is nothing about many of the other concerns facing the women in the province. I hope this format may be changed in the future.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. B. Rae: Members should listen to the words of the report itself on the IDEA Corp. "We concluded that effective business planning did not exist throughout the life of the corporation We concluded that IDEA's investment decisions were generally not undertaken with sufficient attention and due diligence.... We found evidence of conflict of interest or similar irregularities in only one instance, Graham Software."

They also found there was evidence of outside influence, and in particular referred to the influence of Ivan Fleischmann, who, I understand, is still a member of the Liberal Party.

"By way of summary," they also said, "our review confirmed the general perception of IDEA as an organization plagued by problems from beginning to end—ponderous start, uncertain direction, unsettled management, internal discord and adversarial relationships with other government bodies. Certainly not the type of environment that breeds success."

In particular, in dealing with the Wyda question, I think it is not only interesting, it is important to note that with respect to both Graham Software, where the Provincial Auditor found that there was a situation involving a potential conflict, and with respect to Wyda, where the Provincial Auditor found very directly that there was external influence on the decision

with respect to Wyda—and in fact, as a result, an improper decision was made—the auditor has substantiated the very requirements that led to the establishment of his review.

I might also say that in addition to showing real problems with respect to these two particular investments, which were made after 1985 when the government took power, the report also has a great deal to say about the structural and management problems which were endemic to the very foundation of the IDEA Corp. from the very beginning.

I only regret that—the minister has had this report for 24 hours and has had an opportunity to respond to it—as members of the House might know, I have had this report for about seven minutes and this is the basis of my response. But it gives us enough to go on. I think we have enough to go on to show that not only was the Wyda decision wrong—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. B. Rae: —and the Graham Software decision a problem, but also very real problems right back to the very beginning of these—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you.

Mr. Brandt: I have to say, with all respect to the minister, that I am deeply disturbed. The fact is a specific request was made of him yesterday to release the report at the earliest possible opportunity. I stood up on a point of privilege to make that request. If I was a doubting man, it would almost appear as if the minister held the report and his statement until literally seconds before he got on his feet today, to make it virtually impossible to respond to the content of the report. However, I am going to, because there are areas of the report that are deeply disturbing.

It is deeply disturbing to me that more attention was not paid by the auditor to the question of why a series of events came about as follows. A letter from the president to the minister in September 1985 indicated that IDEA was going to be conducted on a business-as-usual basis. In the fall of 1985, in that same time frame, we have the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) of this province talking about a wind-down of IDEA Corp. Then in December 1985, in that three-month period, we have the chairman again being of the opinion that there was going to be a resurrection of IDEA in some new form.

The kind of confusion, the kind of misunderstanding that was going on between the minister's office, the Treasurer's office and certainly the president of IDEA Corp. with respect to IDEA Corp. is almost unheard of. It resulted in

90 per cent of all of the investment portfolio of IDEA that was lost coming during his term and only 10 per cent of it during the term of the previous government. I think that is something he should be totally and completely ashamed of.

We will take the opportunity, over the course of the next short while, to review this report in detail. I can assure the minister we will have questions on it today and for a few days into the future as well.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. Cousens: Our party is pleased to see that the government has responded to the need for disaster relief for Nicaragua and the Philippines. Our own member, the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), asked for this on October 24. We are pleased that this time the minister has responded and pleased as well that the money is being funded through the Red Cross. I think this is the way in which we should administer support. We know the funds will get there.

One thing our government could be doing, and we could all be doing, is encouraging people from Ontario to start giving more of themselves. I know it is a responsible thing for the government to participate and to give, but we also must encourage the public at large to participate in helping with world relief, famine relief and the needs of those people in different parts of the world.

Anything the minister can do through his ministry to support and maintain and undergird those organizations that are volunteering their services to find that help, that too will help supplement the kind of funding he is announcing today.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Mrs. Marland: In responding to the statement from the minister responsible for women's issues, I think it is very important that his ministry does more than just consider reports and recommendations from organizations like the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues. I think that now we are in the 20th century, when we realize that women's issues are not just women's issues, and here I am as a woman in the House today responding to this statement, mainly because the member, the critic who is responsible for women's issues for our party is not here today. The fact is that while we are in 1988 and we have an organization that has done the kind of work which this organization has

done, this Ontario advisory council on women's issues was established, obviously, by the Progressive Conservative government, which saw the need and had the foresight to appoint that council.

The only regret I have in the minister's statement is that he does not make anything but a passing reference to the outgoing president, Sam Ion, who committed three years of her life to the cause of women's issues in this province. He does not even thank her for the work she has done. I realize he did not write the statement, but I think it would be rather interesting if he could direct his staff to thank someone like Sam Ion, who made a tremendous contribution to this province.

1420

ORAL QUESTIONS HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: We are joined today in the gallery by Mary Dyson, whose daughter Bronwyn is the subject of a letter which she has written to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

Bronwyn Dyson Downey was born in 1983 with a heart problem, which was monitored constantly by the doctors, who had to choose an ideal time to operate. In February, the cardiologist at the Hospital for Sick Children said the operation should be done as soon as possible. In June, the operation was scheduled for October 20, and Ms. Dyson goes on to tell the minister: "We were relieved, although anxious, that our daughter would finally be treated. In the months following, we have planned and prepared ourselves and our family for this event. Arrangements were made for leave from work for parents and grandparents. One grandparent was to have come in from out of town. Everyone was prepared for what we knew would be a stressful, but, in the long run, positive experience for our daughter."

That operation was cancelled on October 13, for the simple reason that there were not enough nurses in the intensive care unit at Sick Children's Hospital to schedule the surgery.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: Can the minister tell us whether she thinks this is a satisfactory level of care for Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am aware of this particular case. In fact, the hospital has informed the ministry that it as well is aware of the seriousness of postponing surgery and the severe emotional effect it can have on the family. As I

understand, postponing the surgery is only considered in cases where the patient's condition is not considered life-threatening, and the physicians are the ones who determine when scheduling will take place.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister is responsible for a health care system in which there is now such a shortage of critical care nurses at Sick Children's Hospital that in September and October of this year, some 30 cases of surgery were delayed. The turnover rate in critical care nursing at the hospital is some 25 or 30 per cent. They have 18 ICU beds now and they want to open up four more but they cannot open up those ICU beds for one simple reason. The minister knows what the reason is. She has known about it ever since she became Minister of Health. It is for one simple reason, a drastic shortage, again documented today in another government report, the report of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, saying quite specifically the problem is a shortage of nurses in critical care. It has consequences for families.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. B. Rae: It has consequences for five-year-old kids who have been waiting all their lives for an operation. It is scheduled for a certain time, and a week before—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: —the whole thing is delayed with incredible trauma for the whole family and all the people surrounding Bronwyn.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. B. Rae: Does the minister recognize that it is her responsibility to do something about the shortage of critical care nurses in the province?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to share with the Leader of the Opposition his obvious concern and mine, about the fact that in the province today we know there is a vacancy rate in nursing of between two and three per cent around the whole province. What is most disturbing is that that vacancy rate is much higher in downtown Toronto in the tertiary care centres and particularly in critical care nursing.

I have said before that I think this is an issue which involves the profession, the nurses themselves; the government; the hospital association, and the individual hospitals. Over the past year, I have been bringing people together to discuss this very issue. There is one report from the reactivated nursing manpower committee, and today, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario presented its report.

I can tell the Leader of the Opposition that there are no simple or easy answers to this systemic problem, which relates directly to the changing role of women. I wish, as I am sure he wishes, that the answers were easy, but I can tell him that we are bringing people together to resolve these as best we can in this difficult situation.

Mr. B. Rae: No one is suggesting on this side that there are simple answers. What we have been saying for a year and a half is that there are some answers. What the government has been doing is absolutely nothing to address any of the suggestions that have been made by the RNO, by the Ontario Nurses' Association, by any of the hospitals involved in terms of extra money for staff training. There are lots of things that can be done, and the suggestions are there, very specifically, for the minister to move on. She is the one who has been sitting on those decisions and has not been making them.

By way of final supplementary, the minister will know I mentioned the figure of 18 beds now, which cannot be fully operational because we do not have enough critical care nurses. The minister should know that in three years' time, Sick Kids Hospital is building a new wing, which is going to have a new ICU unit, which is going to have 44 beds.

I would like to ask the minister, what assurance can she give not only Bronwyn and the hundreds of other Bronwyns who are out there now waiting for operations that simply are not happening because of the critical care shortage but also future generations who are going to be looking at a brand-spanking-new hospital with 44 beds and not enough nurses to keep even half of them open at current levels. That is what she has.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, I believe we are doing much. We know that this issue is directly related to job satisfaction. We hear from the nurses that one of the most important issues for them is amendment of the Public Hospitals Act. I said that rather than waiting for that which I hope will be done within the next year, we are moving now to change regulations under that act to make sure nurses will have a stronger voice in resource allocation and management in hospitals.

As well, and I think it is important for the Leader of the Opposition to note, these very issues respond best to what I have been talking about for many, many months; that is, the need to do appropriate human resource planning for the future; manpower planning, if you will. As we plan for expansion of programs, regardless of

where they are, we should consider what those human resource needs are going to be and make sure that we can respond to them in the future.

We are working with all of the nursing associations; we are working with the Ontario Hospital Association; we are working with the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto, which will also have a report—I believe it should be out in a day or two—to address this very important issue, which does not relate simply to vacancy rates, professional issues or government issues but really does relate to the changing role of women within our society.

CASE OF ANTONIO PRETE AND GINO TURCHIARO

Mr. B. Rae: We are also joined in the gallery today by Antonio Prete, who, along with his friend, Mr. Turchiaro, bears the extraordinary burden of having spent over two years in jail and who was essentially acquitted twice, once at a preliminary inquiry and then again at trial, for the first-degree murder of Aldo Citton.

I have had correspondence and conversations with the Attorney General about this issue for well over a year now. I visited Mr. Prete in prison when he was there, after the Attorney General launched a preferred indictment against him. I wonder if the Attorney General does not feel that because he personally is responsible for the fact that a preferred indictment was brought against Mr. Prete after he was released on the preliminary inquiry, after the preliminary inquiry found that there was not sufficient evidence to convict, he and his government have some responsibility to compensate Mr. Prete for the fact that he spent over two years in prison, that his family and personal life have been very badly damaged by this experience, as I am sure the Attorney General would appreciate, and that something should be done for someone who was acquitted not simply at trial but twice, at trial and at the preliminary inquiry.

1430

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not feel that way. As the honourable member knows, when a preliminary hearing judge decides not to commit for trial, there is no appeal from that determination regardless of how erroneous it may be. It is for that reason, because of the absence of the appeal, that the Criminal Code provides the right to prefer an indictment directly in front of a judge and jury, which is what we did in this case.

The accused, as was their perfect right to do, complained about that process, and my friend will know, because I have given it to him, that

Mr. Justice O'Driscoll, who was the judge of the Supreme Court before whom that issue came, totally vindicated the decision—

Mr. B. Rae: No, he didn't. The question of bail was before O'Driscoll.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Yes. Here is what he said about preferring the indictment and the decision of the preliminary inquiry judge: "In my view, it suffices to say that the discharge of the two accused at the end of the preliminary hearing was a total aberration." There was a whole lot more than the bare bones of a *prima facie* case laid before the provincial court judge. In that case it is clear that it would be the duty of any Attorney General of any party to prefer an indictment, and that I did.

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Justice O'Driscoll was dealing with the question of bail. He was not dealing at all with the question of the legitimacy or otherwise of the preferred indictment, and the Attorney General knows that perfectly well. He knows perfectly well—

Mr. Fleet: Listen to the quote.

Mr. B. Rae: Well, the Attorney General says it is a total aberration. A jury took precisely three hours—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: A jury took precisely three hours to acquit both Mr. Prete and Mr. Turchiaro, and after a three-month preliminary inquiry, Judge Clendenning said there was not evidence on which a conviction could possibly proceed and he said specifically to the two accused: "You have been badly treated by the system. You can go now."

They then were out for a few months and they were arrested at home on a preferred indictment by the Attorney General of this province, spent well over a year and a half again in jail without bail and then were acquitted, the jury having taken three hours to find an acquittal of both gentlemen.

We spent some time debating the Nelles case in this House. It was a case that aroused tremendous sympathy, and I simply want to ask the Attorney General—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: It was again found in a preliminary inquiry that there was not sufficient evidence to convict, and the charges were dismissed. She was then compensated. Mr. Prete and Mr. Turchiaro have not received similar treatment.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the Attorney General, does he think he can do something about it?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I think it is worth pointing out, just so the record will be clear, that Mr. Justice O'Driscoll, speaking of the decision of the lower court judge, Judge Clendenning, not to prefer an indictment and not to let the case go ahead, said it was a "total aberration," that that decision was a total aberration. That makes clear that the decision of any Attorney General to prefer an indictment was entirely appropriate.

The matter came on before trial before a jury, and my friend is entirely correct: These two men were acquitted of the charge. They were held in jail. The reason they were held in jail, as my friend knows well, is that under the code a burden is imposed on them—whether that be right or wrong is a matter for the federal Parliament—to establish in certain circumstances why they should be released from jail pending appeal, and many people are. The judges in this case, including the Court of Appeal in the case of one of the accused, refused to release these two accused pending their trial. It was not a decision of the Attorney General; it was a decision of the court.

Mr. B. Rae: I would hope the Attorney General would reflect on this for a moment. He knows full well that preferring an indictment is not a common event. He knows full well that a preliminary inquiry is usually either the beginning or the end of it, and this preliminary inquiry lasted for three months and found that, in fact, there just was not enough there to mount a case. Without hearing from the defence counsel at all, without any appeal process of any kind—it was a decision taken by him exclusively on the basis of evidence from the crown, which evidence was not persuasive either to the preliminary court or to the jury at the trial that subsequently took place—the Attorney General decided to launch that preferred indictment at extraordinary personal cost to two citizens who have spent over two years in jail and have, in effect, been acquitted twice and have been found by no court in this country to have ever committed a crime in this regard whatsoever.

Does the minister not think those gentleman deserve some kind of compensation from him and from his government for having spent that long in incarceration, having had their lives damaged in this way?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Let's just review the matter. The decision to prefer the indictment was found by the Supreme Court of Ontario to be vindicated

in that the decision releasing the accused was regarded as a total aberration. The decision to hold the two accused in jail pending their trial was made by the Supreme Court of Ontario and in one case was reviewed and confirmed by the Court of Appeal of Ontario.

I believe, for what it is worth, in cases where the accused are innocent, that the position the attorneys general of Canada have taken—that compensation should be considered—is the appropriate principle. It is perhaps useful to point out that in this case, in an article reported in the *Toronto Star*, Earl Levy, one of the most prominent defence counsels in Canada—and, by the way the counsel for Mr. Turchiaro at this trial—is not convinced of the need to compensate. He says—

Mr. B. Rae: It is not true. He said exactly the opposite in the *Globe* yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Don't you want to hear it?

Mr. B. Rae: No, he said exactly the opposite. It's totally incorrect. You don't know what you're talking about.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Don't you want to hear what he says? You can't take it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: You don't know what you're talking about. You haven't talked to Earl Levy.

Hon. Mr. Scott: If anybody wants copies of what Mr. Levy said, I'll show them to you.

Mr. B. Rae: You haven't talked to Earl Levy.

Hon. Mr. Scott: You don't read the papers, because it doesn't suit you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the Leader of the Opposition and the Attorney General. Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I wish members would stop wasting time. Other members have questions.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to the auditor's report and certain findings. Let me just say by way of preamble, if I might, that I am a little disappointed with the minister, as I indicated a few moments ago, in the way in which this report was released. I have great respect for the minister and, under normal circumstances I would think that he is not only a man of fairness but a man of sensitivity. But in this particular report, the way in which it was released leaves a great deal to be desired.

My question to the minister, however, is that in the fall of 1985 there were a number of peculiar statements that came out of IDEA Corp. that in some way led to some very significant losses in that corporation. The president of IDEA Corp. was carrying on business as usual. The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) of this province was talking about the fact that IDEA Corp. was, in fact, going to be wound down, and one would think that that statement would send a clear signal to IDEA Corp. that further approvals would not be forthcoming. Then we have the president indicating later on in December 1985 that, in fact, there was going to be a new IDEA Corp. We have this whole series of very expensive approvals that occurred in that same time frame.

Can the minister perhaps enlighten us as to what was going on at that time, because certainly that is not clarified in the auditor's report?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Members will know that at the time the government was looking into the whole IDEA Corp.—and I have to tell members that the only regret I have is that we did not wind it down sooner—John Kruger was sent in to look at the IDEA Corp. While he was discussing with them their future, the Treasurer of Ontario brought down his budget, in which he clearly stated that IDEA Corp. would be wound down.

While Mr. Kruger was dealing with the officials at IDEA Corp., he was looking at various options of what they were to do. They may have interpreted them in ways over which I have no control but, notwithstanding that, after Mr. Kruger made his report to cabinet in February 1986, the decision was made to confirm our decision to wind it down.

1440

Mr. Brandt: I would just remind the minister that he had Mr. Kruger; Mr. Carman; the standing committee on public accounts; Jack Biddell; the Ontario Development Corp.; Peat, Marwick; Coopers and Lybrand; the Ontario Provincial Police, and now the auditor look at IDEA, and we still have not got to the bottom of it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: If the hyenas over here in the back row will keep quiet, can the minister explain a memo from the president of IDEA Corp. to the vice-president which states that Ivan Fleischmann submitted a proposal on Wyda Corp. to IDEA? The memo goes on to state, "As Ivan is very influential at Queen's Park suggest you give Wyda a good look." Why did the

minister give Wyda a good look that cost the taxpayers of this province \$3 million?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: If the member has had an opportunity to read the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor, he will see that the auditor says that, in his opinion, there were no decisions made of an untoward nature other than Wyda and Graham Software.

Mr. B. Rae: That's why we're asking about Wyda.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member is talking about Wyda. The public accounts committee has looked at this thing extensively. We had sent the police in to look at it. As a result of their investigations, charges have been laid, a judgement of \$3.6 million has been made against the president and we are presently pursuing that particular recovery. What else does the member want out of that? We have done what we determined was the proper thing to do.

As far as Graham Software is concerned, if the member is going to get to that particular issue, we have launched a lawsuit against it. On the two areas in the whole report—other than the criticism of the member's particular government when it was in power for starting this thing, for the poor direction, for the poor administration, for everything else, which is laid at his government's door—on the only two issues the auditor has found that the member could possibly say have been laid at our door, we have in one case sent in the police, where charges have been laid, and in the other case we have launched a lawsuit.

Mr. Brandt: Since the inception of IDEA Corp. the Liberals have talked about this being a bad idea. Let the people of this province know that one third of the investment came from the previous government, and while the Liberals were badmouthing IDEA, talking about closing it down, fully two thirds of all the investment out of IDEA Corp. was made through the decisions of this government.

In light of those facts, since the minister gave this House an undertaking that the auditor would in fact have complete access to whatever information he required in order to carry out a thorough audit of IDEA Corp., did he in fact instruct or have any conversations with the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) with respect to information acquired by the Ontario Provincial Police in their investigations; and was anything other than a cursory conversation held between the auditor and the Solicitor General's staff, through the OPP, or were there exchanges of documents, because it is those documents that we are ultimately going to get at?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked. Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party actually had two questions. He wanted to know why these excessive losses in the time we, as a government, had responsibility for the IDEA Corp. I should tell members that in November 1984 the IDEA board decided to make more direct investments and to take higher risks. This philosophy was built into IDEA's business plan and was approved by its board in May 1985. What has happened is that we have been the beneficiaries of the previous government's legacy. What members of the third party are trying to do is say to us, "You guys lost all this money when you took over," but they had been in charge of the store since 1981. We happened to pick up all of the previous government's bad debts. It is unfortunate.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The way the system works, you ask the questions, I provide the answers.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Any further response?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party had two parts to his question. I would like to respond to the second part of it.

The question is, has the Solicitor General provided any information to the Ontario Provincial Police, in turn providing it to the auditor? I have to say that I do not know. I do not know because once I directed the auditor to do his study, I gave him virtual carte blanche, and if you take a look at the auditor's report, you will see my letter of transmittal in which I gave him his instructions. I told him he could have access to anything he wanted. If he found he could not get it, he could come back to this body—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That seems like a fairly full answer.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Minister of Education regarding the school transfers under Bill 30 in the Lakehead boards of education.

Documents in my possession show that an official from his ministry flew to Thunder Bay earlier this year and brought together the two directors of education for a meeting in a hotel room. When they emerged, they had agreed and signed off a transfer of a specific school, Lakeview High School, to the separate school

board. This is a clear violation of the Education Act. Trustees were only recently advised that any such agreement even existed.

A public review of the future of Lakeview High School that is currently under way is being referred to as an expensive public farce, because the decision to transfer it was made by his ministry several months ago.

Would the minister not agree that the public and the trustees should be consulted specifically about the transfer of schools before the fact, instead of after the fact, in this province?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The member is correct in pointing out that, indeed, officials from my ministry did fly to Thunder Bay and did meet with directors of the coterminous boards. As a matter of fact, over the course of the past 12 months, officials from my ministry have been visiting boards throughout Ontario in an effort to assist them in dealing with what is clearly a very difficult and sensitive matter for coterminous boards to deal with as we try to resolve the issues relative to accommodation as a result of the implementation of full funding under Bill 30.

I might point out that my friend the member for Burlington South in this Legislature just 12 months ago was consistently up on his feet demanding that my ministry take a role, demanding that it intervene and participate in those discussions and negotiations.

I heard the member's complaints and, in fact, over the course of the past year, we have assisted boards in coming to settlements. But the suggestion that the ministry by itself can order the transfer of a specific facility is, of course, nonsense. Boards make those determinations. They have in every other jurisdiction and they did in Lakehead.

Mr. Jackson: When I was raising the questions about Metropolitan Toronto and Hamilton-Wentworth, I asked for and received permission that trustees sit at those tables in those negotiations. No trustee, no publicly elected individual was behind those closed doors.

I want to quote the minister from what he told this House in Hansard on Tuesday. "There is a requirement under the Education Act that coterminous boards meet in joint session to come up with arrangements relative to the use of surplus space that may exist in the public school system." That is what he said in Hansard. That is the law. But that is not what happened in Thunder Bay. Three bureaucrats met in a hotel room; that is what happened in Thunder Bay, and the Lakehead trustees still have not been advised of the details of that agreement.

Is this not a violation of the very legislation that he explained to this House on Tuesday?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am sure the member knows full well that only a board, through its trustees, can make a determination either to close a school or to transfer a facility.

The fact that the member wants to portray discussions that may have been held at the staff level between coterminous boards with or without representatives of my ministry as some sort of surreptitious activity, some sort of cloak-and-dagger operation, is, quite frankly, just plain silly.

1450

Mr. Jackson: There was a signed agreement, signed by the minister's ministry official—it has his signature on it—before trustees ever even saw it. Parents and taxpayers in Thunder Bay have now uncovered how school transfers are really being conducted in this province and they had to do it by filing under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. They have a right to know, and this House has a right to know, if the minister has changed the rules under which we are negotiating and how negotiations are going on.

Can the minister confirm to this House which other boards have conducted negotiations with his ministry similar to the negotiations at the Lakehead boards but which as yet have not been approved or presented to trustees? I ask him specifically about boards such as Halton, Peterborough, Renfrew, Kingston, Sudbury and Lincoln.

Mr. Speaker: It is a good question. It almost sounds like an Orders and Notices question.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am indeed tempted to give an order paper answer. However, I think there is a relatively short answer for the benefit of the member, and that is that there have been no facilities that have either been closed or transferred without the approval of boards and the approval of trustees.

Frankly, watching this member's position on this matter, given his statements in May and July of last year, is a little bit like watching a ball at a tennis match.

MAINTENANCE OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning a building at 2178 Queen Street East in the city of Toronto, owned by 598944 Ontario Ltd. This building has

applied now for a 25 per cent increase in rent but is still subject to outstanding work orders by the city of Toronto.

Does the minister think it is appropriate that a building where there are outstanding work orders would make such an application and does she think it reasonable that the following notice should have been sent to the tenants: "It is expected that the hallway ceiling will be down for several months. There will be no partial or whole rebates in rent during this period. If you find this inconvenience too discomforting, you should speak to the superintendent and he will attempt to sublet your apartment for you"? Is that appropriate?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: In the case of any building in which there are outstanding work orders, the tenants have recourse to the Residential Rental Standards Board, which is part of the system we have as part of rent review. It is as a result of the work of the maintenance standards board that we have been able to push along many landlords to fixing their buildings, those buildings that do have outstanding municipal work orders. In fact, more than 500 landlords have responded in fixing buildings that did need fixing.

Clearly, anyone living in a building where major repairs are going on wants those repairs done as expeditiously as possible, and the maintenance standards board deals with that issue.

Mr. Breaugh: The maintenance standards board is aware of the problem but has been unable to get the Residential Tenancy Commission to do anything. I wonder if the minister could. Would she take it upon herself to inform this landlord that he cannot ignore the city of Toronto bylaws and be in violation of them, that he cannot make a fool of the government's residential standards requirements and still make application to the rent review board for a 25 per cent increase? In case she would like to find him, he is the Liberal candidate in the riding of Beaches-Woodbine. His name is Terry Kelly. She should give him a call.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is up to the city of Toronto to make sure its bylaws are enforced. I am very glad to hear the member say anything about any problem that any tenants in this city face. I am very glad to say we have various ways of making sure repairs are done in buildings.

Mr. Breaugh: Why don't you pick up your phone and do something about it. You are allowed to talk to your candidates.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I think it is very important for the tenants in this building to get the kind of support they need. The maintenance standards board is there for them, the municipal bylaws and enforcement are there for them, and I think they will be able to take advantage of them.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. As I am sure she is aware the nursing shortage in this province is indeed a very serious problem. It is one of the main reasons we are facing waiting lists, patients in hallways and emergency waiting times of over 24 hours. Yet it would appear to the objective observer as if her ministry has been operating in a vacuum on this issue.

The minister now has four reports dealing with the nursing shortage in the province of Ontario: the Ontario Nurses' Association's Goldfarb report; the nursing manpower report of the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto; today, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario's appropriately named "Sorry, no care available due to nursing shortage" report, and her ministry's very own report on nursing manpower.

Putting nurses on advisory committees in hospitals is indeed necessary, but this alone will not solve the nursing crisis. We need some concrete action by the minister and something has to be done now. How many more reports does she need before she is going to take action?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: This is an issue we have discussed a number of times in this House and one about which I know the member opposite shares my concern.

All the advice I have received on this very important issue is that it is extremely complex and that there are no simple or easy answers. The number of reports which have come forward have identified the fact that there are issues for the profession, many of which are being hotly debated and discussed by the profession; there are issues for the hospitals, which are the employers, and I believe it is very appropriate for the hospitals themselves to be discussing and addressing those with their association, the Ontario Hospital Association, as well as a role for government.

I have undertaken that we will move forward and open the Ontario Public Hospitals Act to address this issue from a legislative framework. As well, we will move with regulations on which we are now consulting so that we can ensure that nurses have a say, that they are considered a

valuable member of the hospital and the health care team, and that they have an important role to play in decision-making in that environment.

Mr. Eves: Does the minister realize that each time a nurse leaves the profession it costs our health care system money? It costs us money in terms of education costs, it costs us money in terms of overtime costs and the extra cost of hiring temporary nurses. The RNAO's report estimates this cost to be \$168 million, as I am sure the minister is aware, over the next 10 years.

The ONA's report has some very specific recommendations, as do all these other reports, which the minister can do something about. Some of them are compensation level for nurses, support staff, incentives and improving working relationships.

When is the minister going to recognize that we do know some of the causes of the nursing shortage? Everybody agrees on those. We have a number of excellent recommendations which should be implemented and the minister has to take the lead and do some of this. When is she going to act?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, we have taken action. We have taken action by bringing together—and I have been meeting on an ongoing basis with the elected leadership of nursing to discuss many of these important issues—those people who share with me the concerns about the impact of retention.

We know it is not simply a question of the number of people entering nursing, because our nursing schools are full. We know we are graduating 4,000 each year. We know that nurses in Ontario are the highest paid in Canada and that the Ontario Nurses' Association recently concluded a three-year agreement with the Ontario Hospital Association. We know this has to do with working conditions, job satisfaction and societal issues.

What we are attempting to do is recognize that there are issues for the profession, issues for the employers, the hospitals, issues for educators and issues for government. I believe one of the primary roles of government is to bring people together and I am doing that.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Attorney General. In recent weeks there has been a number of cases where sexual assault offenders have received rather lenient sentences, and people across the province are expressing concern about this matter.

Specifically, there is the case of Corey Naesse, who was sentenced to two years less a day for the sexual assault of an eight-year-old girl. This was his third such conviction in as many years. While the minister may want to get back to me on this specific case at some future time, may I ask what is being done presently to ensure that sexual assault cases are properly prosecuted?

Hon. Mr. Scott: In the last two years we have essentially done four things across the province which may be of interest to the honourable member.

The first is that we have asked each crown attorney who prosecutes a sexual assault or a domestic assault case in which he believes the result is either inappropriate or out of line with the minimum results which are anticipated and usually approved by the Court of Appeal to notify us immediately so we can consider whether an appeal is appropriate.

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The second thing we have done is established an annual educational program across the 49 districts of Ontario, designed to sensitize members of the crown law staff and, in particular, those staff members who are charged with the prosecution of sexual assault cases to the needs of victims, the techniques of presenting these cases and the kinds of anxieties that persons in the case often confront.

Third, I think we have been among the leaders in Canada, along with the province of Manitoba, in establishing the victim impact statement program and in supporting the federal legislation which will shortly be proclaimed, Bill C-89. In Metropolitan Toronto in particular, for over, I think two years, there has been a victim impact statement program under way. As the honourable member will know, that is an important reservoir of information in sexual and domestic assault cases, as well as others.

Lastly, we have given three directives to the crown, which I will reserve for the supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: That is abundant good sense.

Mr. Daigeler: Mr. Speaker, as you can see, I have given the Attorney General some advance notice about this question so that he can be well informed.

On the same subject, since there will be a private member's motion next week—I might say from the third party, which is also interested in this matter—there is much emphasis, and rightfully so, on the prosecution of offenders, but I think we also have to be concerned about the victims of

sexual assault. In this regard, I would like to ask the minister what special initiatives are under way by his ministry to support those who have been the victims of these unfortunate criminal cases?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Having the opportunity, I am sorely tempted to tell the honourable member what Earl Levy, counsel for Mr. Turchiaro, had to say about that particular case, but I think the rules do not permit it so I will confine myself to the answer.

The last point I was going to make to the honourable member was that we have given a number of directives that relate to sexual assault and domestic assault cases. Essentially, there are three. They are sometimes misunderstood by judges but we have tried to be as clear about them as we can.

First of all, we require that each sexual assault case should be assigned by the crown law office to one counsel throughout its process through the court proceedings. This is not only designed to assure efficiency in the prosecution of that case, but also we hope it will assure that the victim and other witnesses will not be subject to interview and reinterview and will develop some sense of confidence in connection with the crown with whom they deal.

Second, we have directed crown attorneys to take an especially strong position on sentence in all sexual assault cases, particularly those that are domestic assault cases.

Third, we have asked our crowns to emphasize to the courts the importance of hearing evidence of the impact of the assault on the victim and to utilize whatever judicial precedents there may be that reflect the gravity of this kind of offence and its impact on our society.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Last June I raised my concerns about funding cutbacks, which were severely constraining the Niagara Escarpment Commission. I now understand that Cresap consultants have completed a review of the management and budget of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Unfortunately, this open government failed to involve the public in that review committee report. Can the minister now tell us when the report will be made public?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We are reviewing that report. We ordered a report of the administration because there was some concern among people, including the member herself, as to the expenditures of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

She raised the question herself. She said we were cutting the budget, we were doing terrible things with it, but I do not believe the member really knew what the budget of the Niagara Escarpment Commission was. The only restraint of the Niagara Escarpment Commission was some \$34,000 out of a budget of \$1.8 million. I would not call that really carving up the budget very much.

Mrs. Grier: The minister has totally evaded the point of my question, which was that in response to the allegations of cutbacks this independent review committee was appointed out of the Premier's office to look not only at the budget of the Niagara Escarpment Commission but at the relationship of the commission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. It is very important, given the level of concern about the operation of this commission, that the public have an ability to scrutinize the report, to respond to it and to participate.

Can the minister tell us how the government intends to respond to this report and how the public will be able to become involved?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We will respond to that report. When we have an opportunity to discuss it with our people, we will be glad to make available many of the concerns that were raised in that report.

I want the honourable member to know that we are doing many things in regard to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. We have made a very strong commitment to that commission. We meet with the client groups. For the first time, we have had public meetings with the people to get their input with regard to the feelings of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

We have assisted the Niagara Escarpment Commission in special projects totalling something over \$300,000. When the member talks about cutting down the budget, she forgets about many of the good things that we are doing for the commission. Would she call \$34,000 out of a budget of \$1.8 million really carving up that budget? Let us hear the member's answer.

Mrs. Grier: Why are you afraid to table the report?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: You did not even know what the budget of the Niagara Escarpment Commission was.

Mrs. Grier: Neither did you, John. Come clean.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: No, you did not.

Mr. Breagh: You get smart and we'll steal your notes.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Markham would like to ask a question.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. I would like to read to the minister something that was sent to me by a constituent, Philip Speller of Thornhill. It is a notice of intent to issue a warrant for an offence committed by Mr. Speller's daughter. It says, "Accordingly, the court intends to issue a warrant for your committal to prison should this fine remain unpaid." Do members know what the offence was?

Mr. Faubert: What did she do?

Mr. Cousens: Thank you. It was failure to pay a parking ticket. Mr. Speller's daughter, as well as hundreds of other people each day, are getting \$25 parking tickets at GO Transit stations around Metropolitan Toronto because the lots are full and they have to park illegally.

What is the minister prepared to do to alleviate this headache? Will he speak to his colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) about the wording of these notices?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Yes, I will speak to my colleague the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), and perhaps the Attorney General, if the member would like to take it to a higher court, and discuss the nature of the offences as the honourable member has indicated.

Mr. Cousens: I also asked what the minister is prepared to do to alleviate this headache, that was the first question. It is estimated that GO officials in Ontario are taking in \$2,500 a day in parking tickets. That is \$12,000 a week or \$624,000 a year.

What is the minister using this money for? Is he putting it towards improving this situation of no parking at GO stations?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member for Markham should know that the ministry does not retain, nor does any other ministry retain the parking fees. Every time he gets charged with something, he should know that the money does not go to the ministry or the respective government.

But I would like to tell the member, of which he is well aware or should be well aware, of the dramatic increase in service in GO systems, bus and rail, since this government took office. What that has necessitated is that we are probably Ontario's largest parking lot operator. We have over 19,000 parking spaces. They are full because of the success of the system. They are

full because we are very successful. We are the victim of our own success.

We are looking carefully at each individual parking area where there are problems—there are not problems at all of them, but there are some—to see where and if expansion can be effected, including some out in my riding, I should point out.

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NATURAL GAS PRICING

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The Consumers' Gas company serves the area which I represent in a territory running from Toronto over to the Niagara Peninsula and also towards eastern Ontario and approximately one million customers. It has come to my attention that the product which they are now purchasing is approximately 12 per cent below last year's price, and I am aware that this purchase is subject to the Ontario Energy Board's approval.

My question to the minister is, how detailed will the submissions be to the board? What input will the minister have to ensure that there will be a reduction in the gas bills comparable to the reduction to Consumers' Gas for what they are buying?

Hon. Mr. Wong: The Ontario Energy Board will be holding public hearings soon on the subject of reviewing the Consumers' Gas supply contracts. All interested parties will have an opportunity to participate and to submit detailed briefs, if they wish.

I might add that the retail gas rates include the cost of distributing the gas as well as the distributor's cost of acquiring the gas. The OEB's job is to determine the final gas rate, based on these costs, and to ensure that these rates are just and reasonable, not only to the end user and the customer but also to the distribution company.

Mr. Owen: I understand that the minister has somewhat of a dilemma because as Canadians we are concerned about the producers, who are facing a severely depressed market with falling prices, and at the same time we have a concern for the consumers in Ontario and what they are paying to the local companies. I am wondering if the minister could comment on what he is trying to do with respect to the dilemma of the western producers and also to getting the best deal for the local consumers of this province.

Hon. Mr. Wong: Since the natural gas industry was deregulated in the fall of 1985, the Ontario government has tried to facilitate the

negotiation process between buyers and sellers of natural gas. My officials and I have been meeting regularly with our Alberta counterparts. Just a week ago, I had another meeting, for example, with the Alberta Minister of Energy here in Toronto. I have also been meeting regularly with industry representatives.

Through these discussions, we hope on behalf of Ontario and the western producing provinces to remove the impediments to market activity so that the commercial negotiations can result in prices that are fair to both producers and consumers of natural gas. I therefore want to reiterate that the consultation process is ongoing. I hope to put a comprehensive natural gas policy for Ontario before my cabinet colleagues in the new year.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the Minister of Labour aware of the seriousness of the isocyanates problem in the Libby-Owens-Ford plant in Lindsay? Is he aware that at least eight of the employees have serious cases of sensitization, which I am sure the minister knows is irreversible once it happens. Can he tell us what they are doing about that problem in that plant and about the problem of the company now firing those employees who have been sensitized to isocyanates?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I want to tell my friend the member for Hamilton East that I certainly am aware of the situation at that plant. In fact, I have had officials from my ministry in contact with both the representatives of the Canadian Auto Workers there and representatives of management.

It is a very serious issue. We are satisfied in our view right now, based on the readings we have taken in the plant, that the levels of isocyanates are below that which is established by regulation. Nevertheless, the member is right that the employees have been terminated. The issue arises whether or not that represents a retaliation for exercising rights under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. As my friend knows, that is a matter which can be raised either through grievance or by way of the Ontario Labour Relations Board. We will be involved in further discussions to determine what exactly is going to happen in that case.

Mr. Mackenzie: Surely the minister must realize that what you have is simply a revolving-door policy. Once they are sensitized and the fact is proven, the workers are shown the door. Indeed, right now management is going around

the plant saying that if there are any more complaints from the workers, it will take a look at shutting down the plant and that it wants the bitching to stop.

The minister must also know that his safety inspector and hygienist are in the plant right now, saying there is nothing wrong with this; all is well in the plant. How can it be well when we have just the tip of the iceberg? Eight are already proved, and the union knows of a number more it is following up who are sensitized to isocyanates. Surely the minister has got to involve himself, and very quickly, in this plant situation.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Hamilton East can just relax for a moment. I can tell him that I have apprised myself of the situation. We have inspectors there and every reading we have done indicates the levels are below those which are established by regulation.

There is some evidence that some members of that workforce have been sensitized to isocyanates, as he says. That is a serious issue, and we are taking it seriously. I do not know if I can give my friend any more assurances, other than that we have officials there. We are looking at it. I am in discussion with the board to see what the ramifications are in terms of that sensitivity and the workers' right to make a claim to the workers' compensation system. I am not sure if he has any other suggestions for me.

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Sterling: I have a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with regard to the reports on the IDEA Corp. which we received today, both Mr. Biddell's report and the Provincial Auditor's report.

I note on page 4 of Mr. Biddell's report it says: "My review was not in the nature of an audit. I confined my examination to a review of the material available to directors of IDEA based on which they approved the original investments and a review of memoranda prepared by the staff of IDEA."

In other words, he looked at what material was in the files.

With regard to the Provincial Auditor's report, if we look in appendix C of that report, it lists the individuals who were interviewed by the auditor. If we look through that list, we find that none of the investees nor any of the people who may have been alleged to be involved in the influence of the chairman, the president, the minister or his staff were, in fact, interviewed.

How are we going to get to the bottom of this unless we have a public inquiry where these

people will be called before it and asked about their involvement in this matter?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure the member knows that in support of the observations, he looked at all of the files held by the government and its staff. He reviewed 170 boxes of files. He interviewed about 40 people in addition to officials of investee companies. He employed forensic auditors. He drew on resource materials prepared for two major hearings of the standing committee on public accounts.

I am sure he knows, and again I want to refer the member back to my letter of instruction to the auditor, I put absolutely no restriction on him. I told him to go wherever he felt he should go to seek whatever information he should seek. If he felt that he could not do it because of some sort of constraint, he was to report back to this House. I gave him the undertaking of this government that we would make available to him the proper powers and authorities to allow him to carry on that investigation.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: On page 20 of the auditor's report, I read:

"In an August 1985 letter to the assistant deputy minister, the president"—that is, the president of the IDEA Corp.—"discusses various options for the future of IDEA. In the letter he states that he has had meetings during the previous two weeks with 'John Kruger, Abe Schwartz, Ivan Fleischmann, Leo Gray, Ian Solomon and others who are, or who claim to be, in a position to determine the fate and future of IDEA Corp. and other crown corporations and government agencies.'"

In view of the fact that only one of those individuals is included in appendix C in terms of having had an interview with the auditor, does the minister not think the public of Ontario has a right to know what the involvement of Abe Schwartz, Ivan Fleischmann, Leo Gray and Ian Solomon has been in this whole affair? The public has a right to know what is going on in this matter, and we demand a public inquiry.

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Mr. Speaker: The member has put the question very well. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: If I could respond to the member, what we have is a situation where I am sure his strategy is that the best defence is a good offence. I can tell him that the basic reason for this inquiry, when you consider that the standing

committee on public accounts looked into this in every possible way—

Mr. Sterling: That's not true.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: It is true, and the basic reason for this inquiry was an accusation by the leader of that party that PRA International in London got undue consideration by IDEA Corp. because of his connection with the Premier (Mr. Peterson).

To satisfy that particular accusation, we called on the Provincial Auditor to look at all of the issues related to IDEA Corp. He came back and said there was nothing, no political interference whatsoever. As a matter of fact, what he has said in the report is that nowhere was there any political interference. What he did say was there was some external influence.

Let me quote one thing. If you look at page 21, he says, "in October 1985, another MPP wrote to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology on behalf of a constituent who had been turned down by IDEA. 'I would be most grateful if you would look into this situation, and if possible, reverse the decision by the IDEA Corporation, or failing that to give me some rationale for the actions that were taken.'"

Mr. Pelissero: Who signed that?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: It was the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens). The point that I am making is, so what?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to just remind the members that completes oral questions and responses.

PETITIONS

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. Jackson: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor in Council and it is signed by 108 persons which reads, in part, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, want the Lord's Prayer and scripture readings retained in school opening exercises."

I have signed same.

TAXES

Mr. Owen: I have a petition signed by 38 people addressed to the Lieutenant Governor on the problem of being taxed on tax. It reads:

"We are already taxed when it comes to income, pensions, purchases or entertainment.

"We are first taxed at our place of employment, then we are taxed on buying merchandise, entertainment and sundries. Our children's meagre allowances are being taxed.

"For example: wages, pensions, merchandise, cable television, sundries, telephone.

"These are all taxed individually. The average Canadian citizen is barely able to survive with 100 per cent of their wages. The tax bite leaves a little over half being spendable money. The tax on purchases takes another unaffordable bite. There is very little left of our incomes after all these tax bites.

"It is time we protested against being taxed on taxes, it is an injustice to the people and you as our member (elected) of parliament act on our behalf."

I have signed the same.

MOTION ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the estimates of the Ministry of Health be considered in the committee of supply before the estimates of the Ministry of Government Services and that notwithstanding the sequence established for the consideration of estimates referred to the committee of supply, the estimates of the Office of the Premier, Cabinet Office and Office of the Lieutenant Governor be considered on Thursday, December 8, 1988.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL ACT

Hon. Mr. Kerrio moved second reading of Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Today I would like to bring Bill 175, the Water Transfer Control Act, before the House for second reading. This legislation is important because it helps ensure a secure supply of water for Ontarians and Canadians now and for the future.

Last week in question period, members were discussing the bill and it became clear to me that there are some misconceptions regarding its intent. Bill 175 is intended to ensure control over any and all proposed water transfers—transfers within Ontario, to other provinces in Canada and to other countries.

The discussion last week centred on the export of water. One of our objectives with this bill, as I have stated from the outset, has been to provide authority for the government to prohibit transfer of Ontario's water to other countries, including the United States.

Let me repeat what I said when I introduced this bill for first reading in June. I said then: "This government is concerned that the proposed free

trade agreement places control of Canada's water supply at risk. We believe that the failure to expressly exclude water exports from the agreement opens a door we think ought to be closed."

I introduced this bill to close that door and, as I said in June, to reassure the people of Ontario of their government's determination to prevent the free trade agreement from creating uncertainty about Ontario's water supply. I am as strongly committed to that position now as I was then. That is why I will discuss in a moment the amendments I would like to propose, to state in legislation this policy with regard to the exports of water outside Canada.

What is misunderstood about this bill is the importance of enacting legislation that provides the Ontario government with the power to refuse or approve water transfers within Ontario or Canada. On Wednesday, November 2, during debate, I informed the House that I would be prepared to accept an amendment to the Water Transfer Control Act to make it absolutely clear that our water cannot be exported outside Canada.

On Thursday, November 3, I received a submission from the New Democratic Party proposing an amendment to Bill 175 that would prohibit any and all water transfers, not just exports to other countries. This proposal ignores Ontario's domestic responsibility. Ontario must keep its options open regarding transfers within the province and within Canada.

Let me give an example. Since 1913, Ontario has granted the city of Winnipeg approval to direct and take water from Shoal Lake for domestic purposes. We are pleased to be able to provide this supply to a sister province. I should add that if the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) had been around in 1913—he actually just looks that way—with his proposals on water transfers, the city of Winnipeg would not have the water supply it enjoys now. We would not have been able to allow such a transfer. Clearly, that is not how this government plans to treat other parts of Canada.

There are other reasons for keeping our options open. If scientists are correct and our climate continues to change dramatically, hot dry summers like the one we experienced this year may become more commonplace and actions to counteract drought may be required. There may well come a day when our government may want to be able to transfer water from one part of Ontario to another, or from Ontario to another part of Canada. They may need it to battle severe drought or to stimulate economic development.

Should that day come, our ability to control and manage our water supply must not prevent us from helping water-short areas of Ontario or Canada. Bill 175 gives us this control and flexibility.

However, any proposed transfer must be examined with care. Water transferred from a provincial drainage basin is permanently lost to that basin. Therefore, a decision to transfer cannot be taken lightly.

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The bill allows the minister to impose any condition on a transfer that may be necessary; for example, to protect Ontario's local economy or our environment. It also clearly indicates that transfers will not be approved where they may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply.

To further strengthen Ontario's ability to protect and control its water supply, I am introducing a number of amendments to Bill 175. One amendment makes it clear that all water, except spring water and mineral water bottled as a beverage for human consumption, is subject to the act.

Another simplifies the act by recognizing that the Great Lakes function as a single provincial drainage basin. As I said previously, the day may come when we have to consider the possibility of transfers to help the people of Ontario and the people of Canada.

Progressive Conservative members have suggested that Bill 175 is inferior to the federal Canada Water Preservation Act. The free trade agreement allows for the possibility of water exports to the United States, despite the statements of the Conservative government.

The Canada Water Preservation Act, introduced at the last minute before Parliament dissolved and, I might say, in response to a bill we moved here, is of no assistance; that act died on the order paper and therefore offers no protection at all. We want that protection and we intend to provide it through Ontario legislation.

It would appear that all three parties agree that we should not export our water outside Canada. Therefore, I am introducing an amendment to the Water Transfer Control Act which states that the Minister of Natural Resources will not approve any transfer of water to a place outside Canada.

With this amendment, we are enshrining in legislation our policy that Ontario's precious water resources are not for export outside Canada; our water resources are for the people of Ontario and the people of Canada. Together, the amendments I am introducing further strengthen

Ontario's ability to assert control over its water resources.

This government recognizes water as a precious, limited, strategic resource, one vital to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Ontario and Canada.

Of course, amendments will be distributed to the members in the usual way. I would ask members to support speedy passage of this bill. We must reassure the people of Ontario of their government's determination to protect our water resources.

Mr. Wildman: I have a question. As the minister has argued that the main purpose of the bill is to control transfers within Canada, and he is going to have an amendment that will do what he should have done last June—that is, to protect against the transfer of water outside of Canada—if he is concerned mainly about controlling the transfer of water from Ontario drainage basins to other parts of Canada, such as the use of water from Shoal Lake by the city of Winnipeg, which has been done since 1913, can the minister please explain why he needs legislation now, as it has been done since 1913?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am hoping I am going to get the kind of support this bill deserves, and I am not going to get into any kind of dialogue that would take away from the importance of the bill.

I shared my thoughts with the leader of the official opposition that my intentions were exactly as they were described: to protect this valuable resource. The member brings up a very interesting question about why we are doing it now and not in 1913. I would suggest that the reason—

Mr. Villeneuve: Political posturing. Could it be political posturing?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I like that; the camera should be on the member once in a while when he comes back with those strange hee-haws.

The intent of the bill was to make certain that our water was protected. In the ensuing examination of that bill and the thought that the official opposition was not prepared to support the bill, we were proving to them there was a need to have a bill that would address the movement of water from one basin to another within Canada and within Ontario. That just was not done before. There is no other reason for that. There just was not the requirement.

But when we look at the question of water going into the United States and, indeed, the threat of the free trade agreement, where

obviously there are going to be great requests for water from Ontario; number one, you put a bill, and then you have to put a bill that is going to encompass all of these situations that have existed, that were not covered. I must say it was not covered. Now, if we wanted to do it again, we certainly would not hesitate to give the city of Winnipeg approval to take water from Shoal Lake, but at least it is covered. Now, whenever those things are going to take place, they would have to have the official blessing of the government of Ontario. I do not see that that is strange at all.

Le Vice-Président: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres députés qui veulent participer au débat? Le député d'Algoma.

Mr. Wildman: I rise to participate in this debate because I think it is unfortunate to have the minister put into a situation of having to rationalize this legislation before the House in such a manner. It is unfortunate that we now find ourselves redrafting a piece of legislation on the floor of the House, because that is, in fact, what is going to happen in this debate. After we complete second reading, we are going to have to rewrite this legislation completely, because it never did what it purported to do; it could not have.

I rise in this debate in two aspects. Number one, we have to put it into the context of the great debate that is going on within our country today about our trading relationship with the United States and with other countries around the world. The government indicated that this was a piece of legislation that was supposed to indicate its opposition to the Mulroney trade pact with the President of the United States.

When it was shown by my leader that this legislation did not do that, the minister indicated he was prepared to accept amendments. We have provided amendments, and he has said he is going to provide amendments as well, and we will be debating those amendments after second reading. It was also interesting that the minister then went outside of this place, and repeated subsequently in this assembly, that the real reason for this bill, which dealt with approving transfers of water, was to deal with transfers within the country, and the government did not want to cut off the possibility of transferring water to Manitoba, Quebec or somewhere else in the future.

Every one of us in this House knows that was a rationalization; that was grasping at straws by the minister to be able to try to say that this piece of legislation was not as worthless as it really was. I

think the minister must have been terribly embarrassed to have to defend this piece of legislation before the House, and I think that was indicated in his agreement to accept amendments so quickly when the matter was raised in the Legislature. The fact is that either whoever drafted this legislation did not know what the minister wanted or the minister did not really want to prohibit the export of water, because the legislation that was introduced by the minister did not do that. As a matter of fact, the legislation set up a regime, a process, for allowing, for approving the transfer of water to the United States and for setting out ways to ensure that Ontario could get revenue from that transfer.

The other aspect I want to deal with in discussing this legislation is in relation to the protection of our water resource. It is completely separate from the issue of free trade, but I want to deal with the so-called free trade agreement first.

1540

As I said earlier in this House this afternoon, ever since the federal Conservative Party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, initiated negotiations with the Reagan administration for a trade agreement with our southern neighbour, a trade agreement that would involve the complete integration of our two economies, we in this party have pressed the federal Conservatives and the provincial Liberal government to take action that would protect the interests of the people of this province and this country.

What did we get in response? We got a lot of rhetoric prior to the last election and then we got a lot of election rhetoric about what this government, what the Liberal Party of Ontario was going to do to protect Ontario's interests. But we got no action. We got none at all.

Finally, after a long wait, we got the introduction at the end of June, not long before the House recessed, of three so-called anti-free-trade bills by this government, one of which was the water bill we are discussing now.

When the minister introduced his bill in the House, he made a statement under the order of ministerial statements in which he said, as he repeated here this afternoon, that he was closing the door on the export of water from the provincial drainage basin to the United States.

In an immediate response to that, I indicated on behalf of our party that we were certainly in favour of that principle. That is what we have been fighting for during the discussion of this debate, that we favoured the closing of the door, to use the minister's term, to the export of water

from our drainage basin to the United States. For that reason, we could support a bill that did that. I suppose I took the minister's word at the time that his bill would in fact do that.

Instead, when we got the bill and started to analyse it, we found that the major part of the legislation dealt not with how to stop exports but rather with how to facilitate exports and how much should be charged for those exports, how a ministerial approval might be obtained and in what cases it might be denied, but mostly with how approval could be obtained and what would subsequently be required of the individual who got approval for the export, how the payments would be made, the kind of inspections that would have to be done and all these sorts of things.

Instead of closing the door on exports of water from this drainage basin to the United States, what the minister's legislation did was set up a toll-gate. The main purpose of the legislation was to get revenue into the provincial Treasury for the transfer of water to the United States. That is how the bill is written, even if the minister did not intend that, as he said when he said he wanted to get amendments.

Mr. Ballinger: Do you ever make a mistake, Bud?

Mr. Wildman: Certainly I have made mistakes. I understand the minister has made a mistake in this case and that he is now ready to try to rectify it by introducing amendments.

Why, then, does the minister try to pretend that those sections of the bill that we objected to were not really supposed to be allowing for export of water but rather were to deal just with the transfer of water to Manitoba, for instance?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Charles Wildman.

Mr. Wildman: I do not understand why the minister could not just have gotten up and said, "It didn't do what we really wanted to do, and that's why I am ready to take amendments," and just left it at that, saying, "Okay, we'll look at the amendments, we'll propose amendments and we'll see what can be done."

I suppose it could have been just an honest mistake, but I think the reason this happened was not just that a mistake was made by the drafters of the legislation but that it really reflected the attitude of the Liberal government towards the whole free trade controversy.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Charles, where is your Carleton county judgement?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You are just on the edge of imputing motives.

Mr. Wildman: No, I am not imputing motives. I think it is quite true that this government has been saying for so many months now that it is in opposition to the free trade agreement; but it has also said, and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has repeated it from time to time, that he is not opposed to a trade agreement, just this trade agreement that has been negotiated by Mr. Mulroney. He has said that we have, as we all admit, a major trading relationship with the United States and that there is room for the negotiation of some kind of agreement that would provide us with access into the US market.

This government has never been opposed to the kind of free trade agreement that has been talked about by people like Simon Reisman in the past. Neither this Premier nor his federal leader has stated that either of them is opposed to a long-term trade agreement with the United States. What they have said is that they are opposed to this agreement that has been negotiated by Mr. Mulroney.

In drafting the legislation, it must have been difficult for the people who were responsible in the ministry, because they knew that the government was not opposed to the export of many products to the United States but rather that they wanted some kind of regulation of those exports; a bill that appeared to prohibit the export of water but, in the long run, would allow for it under certain circumstances. I have some sympathy with the people who were trying to draft the legislation, because we had a lot of rhetoric from the government on the one side, but on the other side there was always the possibility that we could have such kinds of arrangements with the United States.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Charles.

Mr. Wildman: Now, the House leader keeps referring to me by my, I think it is sometimes called a Christian name.

Mr. Mackenzie: He thinks we should trust him; that's all.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mackenzie: He thinks we should trust him. Can you imagine that?

Hon. Mr. Conway: You would expect a Carleton county boy to be sensible.

Mr. Wildman: I am very proud of coming from eastern Ontario, as you do, Mr. Speaker, and as does the House leader for the government. However, I do not quite see the relationship between my roots in Carleton county and the debate that is before us. The minister obviously does not like to deal with the issue of how this

government is really prepared to have a few minor tinkering changes done to the free trade agreement and in the long run end up with an agreement with the United States if the Liberal Party is able to achieve victory on November 21.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You can't be so cynical.

Mr. Wildman: I have observed for many years the operations of the government, the previous government and now this government since 1985, and if anything has made me cynical, it is the way those two parties have operated in this Legislature and across this province.

The bill, we know, was not designed, really, to prohibit or even to limit water exports, but rather to allow for their sale and to set out how much would be required to be paid.

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: Water has been central to the debate, not only on the Magpie project, as referred to by the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway) in northern Ontario, but also on the whole question of major transfers from the northern watershed, first into the Great Lakes basin and then into the United States.

1550

Even before Mr. Mulroney was converted to the idea of a free trade agreement with the United States, we had significant leaders in this country who were talking about a major transfer of water. We had Tom Kierans and Simon Reisman who were major proponents of what is called the GRAND Canal project.

For those members of the House who are not familiar with the GRAND Canal project, it is a proposal that would put a dam across the northern extremity of James Bay and separate it from Hudson Bay, turn James Bay into a freshwater lake and then construct canals along what is generally northwestern Quebec near the Ontario border, over the height of land. It would use nuclear power to pump the water over the height of land, bring it into the northern Ottawa River valley and then transport it across the water link through to Lake Nipissing and into Lake Huron and Lake Superior, into the Great Lakes water basin.

Then water would be available for transfer through Lake Michigan into the midwestern United States, Chicago and farther south, and eventually into the sun-parched southwestern areas that are certainly in great need of water, or it would transfer water from the western extremities of Lake Superior into the Lake of the Woods basin and so on into western Canada or into the far northwest of the United States.

Some would call it a visionary concept. It certainly is a concept that would be a tremendous construction megaproject that would have enormous environmental impacts in northern Ontario and in the Great Lakes basin. It would significantly raise the water levels in the Great Lakes, which happen to be a little low right now but which only a couple of years ago were at record levels. It would change substantially the shoreline of Lake Superior and Lake Huron and to a lesser extent some of the other Great Lakes. It would have drastic effects on shoreline properties, on fish life and on water life in the Great Lakes. As well, there is the question whether or not it is in any way feasible even to conceive of such a megaproject.

It is significant that one of the main proponents of that project was Simon Reisman who, we all know, historically has been a well-known Liberal. He has negotiated trade agreements with the United States in the past, such as the auto pact which has been very successful and which was a very important development in the early 1960s. But he was chosen by the Conservative Prime Minister of this country to enter into negotiations with the United States.

Hon. Mr. Conway: He's now making Tory ads, Bud.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Wildman: Is it not interesting how easy it is for people at that level to switch between the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, depending on the political circumstances at any particular time in this country? I think it is significant, though—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Without stopping anywhere.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please, the Minister of Mines and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio); one member at a time. The member will ignore the interjections.

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: I frankly do not appreciate having the House leader of the Liberal Party refer to me in the same breath as the gentleman from Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger). What the minister purports to know about my political past, I am not certain. I suppose he may be referring to the fact that my father was a well-known Conservative in Carleton county, but the fact my father was a well-known Conservative has little or nothing to do with my political background.

Mr. Villeneuve: Where did you go wrong?

Mr. Wildman: The member for the united counties asks, "Where did you go wrong?" I remember the first day I entered this Legislative Assembly. There was a well-known and venerable predecessor of his, or certainly in that chair, a Donald Morrow, who was still a member of the Legislature at that time. He came across the floor and said to me, "Your name is Wildman." I said, "Yes." He said, "Your father is Jack Wildman." I said, "Yes." He said, "But he is a well-known Conservative." I said, "Yes, he is, and I have never been one." Then he asked, "What happened to you?" I said, "I saw the light."

The fact that my father was a Conservative, though, would not have influenced him to support such a grandiose project as the GRAND Canal. My father, I am proud to say, besides being a well-known Conservative was also a well-known Canadian nationalist who never would have agreed to the sellout of our resources to a foreign country, the kind of sellout that was suggested in this legislation until the minister was suddenly brought to his come-uppance by my leader and said, "Yes, I agree that it does not do what it is supposed to do and we should amend the legislation."

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have respect for your leader.

Mr. Ballinger: This is your life, Bud Wildman.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Do you think you made a bum move, Bud?

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member will ignore the interjections.

Mr. Wildman: I was diverted by the House leader's referring to my antecedents. I will say that while I have never agreed with the politics of my father, I am proud to have learned from him the value of this country and its resources, and to have made one of my main concerns in my political life and my political career the desire to protect our natural heritage and to ensure that we never enter into the kind of agreement that would tie us to the continuing export of any of our raw resources, which could and should be used in this country to produce wealth here.

The fact that one of the main proponents of the GRAND Canal project was also the main negotiator for this country in the Mulroney trade negotiations, I think is an indication of what we have to fear from the Mulroney deal. In the federal House of Commons, members of the opposition parties raised the possibility of major

transfers of water under the final text of the deal. The federal Conservatives said no, this was not possible. The fact that they backed down and said yes, it could be done, could be interpreted in that way, and therefore introduced a piece of legislation that they said was going to stop it, but which unfortunately is not as effective as it should be, is an indication of what we have to face under this proposed trade agreement.

What has been the approach of the provincial Liberals to dealing with that agreement? First, way back before the election, the Premier stated, after he had entered into discussions with the other premiers and with the Prime Minister, that he believed he had a veto, not only over the final pact but over the negotiations. He said that the people of this assembly and the people of Ontario should be assured that he would protect Ontario's interests and Canada's interests, and if, in any way, they were threatened by negotiations, he would exercise the veto he believed he had.

When we in this party suggested that he should indeed exercise the veto, what was his response? He said it would be premature to cut off negotiations, to exercise the veto, until he saw the terms of the pact. After all, he said, the agreement conceivably might be good for Ontario and it would be irresponsible for a Premier of this province to cut off negotiations that might lead to a pact that was good for Ontario.

1600

Nobody in our party believed that any negotiations being carried on by Simon Reisman for the Prime Minister of Canada with the United States would lead to a pact that would be good for Ontario. We said that.

We have been proposing for years the need to do a number of things in our trading relationships. One is that we need to diversify our trading relationships. We need to increase our exports, not only to Europe but also to the Pacific Rim. There are many economists who suggest that in the 21st century the main growth area in the world economy will be the nations of the Pacific Rim, not just Japan or Korea, but Taiwan, China, the Philippines and Singapore, that those nations will be the main expanding economies in the world. Those are the nations we should be concentrating on trying to improve our relationship with, through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations and others, to bring down tariff barriers so we would have access to markets and expand and diversify our trading relationships.

We also said that in our relationship with our main trading partner, the United States, we

should be negotiating pacts similar to the one Simon Reisman negotiated in the 1960s, the auto pact, which is not a free trade agreement but rather a managed trade agreement. If the auto pact were indeed a free-trading agreement, there would not be nearly the number of auto assembly plants in Ontario as there are under that agreement. It is interesting that under the final agreement negotiated by Mr. Reisman, the possibility of future auto pacts with other nations, such as Japan, is strictly prohibited for Canada and for Ontario.

We were suggesting there were alternatives. However, the Liberal Premier said he did not want to go against the Conservative federal government initially, because it might be premature. He did not want to exercise a veto.

During the election campaign, of course, the Premier became more specific. He said, on behalf of his party, that there were six conditions that must be met in order for this government to accept a trading pact with the United States. I will not go through all of that again. It has been debated at length in this House. We know what the six conditions were. We also know the Premier said the bottom line was that if those conditions were not met, particularly with relation to protection of the auto pact, there would be no deal. We said: "All right then; if you believe you have a veto, and you have set out six conditions, we expect that the bottom line will be the Premier of Ontario will stop the negotiations and prohibit any ratification of this agreement."

After all, all we had to go on was the commercial that was run during the election campaign by the Liberal Party of Ontario. That was a tremendous commercial. I congratulate the apparatchiks in the Liberal Party who were responsible for designing that commercial, or the advertising firm that did the work for them, because if there was anything cynical in the election campaign, it was that commercial. It said something to everybody on every conceivable side of the free trade argument.

If you were in favour of free trade, that commercial and the Premier speaking in that commercial said to you, "If it's a good deal for Ontario, then we'll agree to it." If you were opposed to the free trade agreement, that commercial said to you, "Unless six conditions are met, the bottom line is there will be no deal." If you were, like many people in this province and across Canada, a little unsure about the free trade agreement, it gave you the assurance that the Premier would protect the interests of Ontario and of Canada by ensuring that if the free trade

agreement in any way threatened the interests of Ontario, he would stop it.

It was a very effective commercial. Perhaps I was a little naïve. I thought, after hearing that commercial and after hearing the speeches made by the Premier during the election campaign, that after he won such an enormous mandate, the Liberal Premier of Ontario would indeed stop the deal.

What happened after the election? The first thing that happened after the election with regard to the free trade deal was a statement made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) in the estimates debate on his ministry. In that debate, I recall that the member for Wilson Heights said: "Well, the Premier, in the election debate, did not really mean that he was against the deal, or any deal, completely. What he really meant was maybe there could be a deal if it was good for Ontario." Already, we had the government backing off from its so-called commitment to stop the deal.

In answer to questions in the Legislature, the Premier said he did not want to prejudice the terms of the deal. He said before he took any action to stop it, he would have to see the exact terms of the agreement. Not long after that, we got the draft terms of the agreement. It was obvious that in those draft terms not one of the six conditions set out by the Premier in the election campaign was met. Frankly, the Premier agreed that not one of those conditions was met. Did he take action? No, he did not. Instead, the Premier said that we would have to see the final agreement before he and his government would take any action.

Late in the year 1987, we did finally get the final text. Again, it was obvious that while there had been a few minor changes, the six conditions set out by the Premier had not been met. As a matter of fact, in answer to questions in the House, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) suggested that perhaps the free trade agreement, if it was ratified, would be unconstitutional.

In answer to the questions of my leader, did he say he would go to court? No. He said the problem with going to court was that the government and the lawyers representing the government might lose. I always thought that was what happened in court. You went to court and if you made your arguments well and if they were well-founded, they would be judged and you would win; if they were not well-founded, you might lose. The Attorney General said, "No, we might lose, so we do not want to go to court."

So they did not go to court. This government just did nothing.

We said to the Premier, "Well, if you think it is unconstitutional, why then don't you exercise the veto you claim you have had all along?" The Premier said, "No, we must wait until we see how the final terms of the agreement, which we now have, are implemented before we take any action."

The fact is this government has not taken any action. It has not done anything. It has talked a good game against free trade. It has persuaded the people of this province that this government is opposed to free trade, but it has not done anything in any meaningful way to protect the interests of this province against the negotiation and ratification of a deal.

1610

It is our view that this deal negotiated by the federal government threatens Canadian sovereignty. I sincerely believe that. I think it means that our economies, the two economies in North America will be so drastically integrated over the 10-year transition period that it will be impossible to disentangle our relationship, even if we have a government that is prepared to exercise the opting-out clause Mr. Mulroney keeps referring to.

That is why I am most disappointed that the Liberal Party of Ontario did not act, did not exercise the veto, that the Premier did not use the enormous mandate he won in 1987 to protect the interests of this country. All that the Premier and his colleagues have done, have said is, "We are concerned about the deal. We don't think it's a good deal. We're opposed to the deal, but we're not going to do anything," until the end of June when we had the introduction of the three pieces of anti-free-trade legislation.

It is interesting to look at those pieces of legislation. We have before us the Water Transfer Control Act. The government also introduced the Power Corporation Amendment Act. It is interesting to recognize what has happened with that energy act. The government not only has agreed to say that it should be amended, as it has done with this legislation, it has actually withdrawn that piece of legislation and said, "Well, we'll have to come back with a new one later on."

The fact is that not one of the three pieces of legislation introduced in June really had any teeth in it to do anything about the free trade legislation. But they were convenient. There was a nice media production. It was something to get media, to say, "Okay, we're opposed," to remind

people that the Liberal Party was not in favour of the free trade agreement while at the same time not really meaning anything in terms of challenging the federal government and challenging the free trade agreement.

It is very similar to the commercial they ran during the election campaign. It could mean all things to all people. With regard to the legislation, with regard to the bill we are discussing, it could mean, if you were against free trade in water, that this government was putting regulations on the transfer of water outside the country; while if you were in favour of the export of water as a way of gaining revenue for this country and this province, then you could be in favour of the legislation because it allowed for it.

I would like to turn specifically to the bill now, to talk about some of our concerns about that legislation. Bill 175 states, in its explanatory note, "The purpose of the bill is to ensure for Ontario and Canada a secure supply of water." Then it says, "The bill prohibits the transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin..." If it had ended at that in the explanatory note, then it would have been, as far as we are concerned, a real challenge to the free trade agreement. But it does not stop there. There is another phrase on the end of that sentence.

It says, "The bill prohibits the transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin without the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources." In other words, what that means is, that is the same as saying the bill will allow for the transfer of water out of the provincial drainage basin with the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources.

Then it goes on to say, "The minister is authorized to attach conditions to an approval and to require payment for a transfer of water." It then goes on to say, "Approval will be refused or revoked if the minister is of the opinion that the transfer is or may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply for Ontario or Canada or any part thereof." But that is an afterthought.

The point is that the main portion of the bill, even in the explanatory note, deals with approvals by the Minister of Natural Resources for the transfer of water. So it can hardly really be seen by anyone as a challenge to the free trade agreement.

In the legislation, there are a number of references to approval. In section 1, it deals with approval and regulations under the act which would allow for approval.

It then gets on to section 2 which deals with prohibition. It says: "No person shall transfer

water out of a provincial drainage basin by any means....” Again, if it had stopped there, it would indeed be a challenge to the free trade agreement. But it did not stop there. It then says, “...without the written approval of the minister.” Again, it says, in other words, with the written approval of the minister, a person shall be able to transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Winnipeg.

Mr. Wildman: The minister now says he is referring to interprovincial transfers of water, such as the transfer of water from Shoal Lake to Winnipeg, but members will recall that in the discussion of the bill at the time it was introduced in June, there was no reference specifically to Winnipeg or Manitoba or Shoal Lake at all. Instead, the minister said he was closing the door on exports to the United States. The question is: How can you close the door on exports to the United States if it specifically states in the bill that you can get written approval from the minister in some cases to transfer water? That is what the bill says.

The bill goes on to say, “A person who requests approval to transfer water...” It does not say “to transfer water out of the country.” It just says: “A person who requests approval to transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin shall submit to the minister plans, reports, studies and other information as are prescribed or as may be requested by the minister.” Nowhere does it say “a person who requests the transfer of water out of the country.”

I believe we are dealing with the question of the transfer of water, the principle of the legislation. The legislation as presented in the House is inadequate, and the minister himself has admitted it and that is why he is moving an amendment.

We have not seen the amendments. We in this House can hardly be expected to speak to the amendments when we have not seen them. The minister has not supplied us with the amendments.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We have them now.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, we have just received the amendments. Okay.

When my leader raised questions about this, the minister, as he has indicated, said he would accept amendments.

We looked at the bill and said, “What should be done with this bill in order to challenge the free trade agreement and at the same time protect Ontario’s water resources?” We looked at the legislation and came to the conclusion that

sections 3 through 8 should be removed from the bill.

Again, section 3 talks about how to get approval from the minister by supplying studies. Section 4 talks about the amounts of money; how the minister will determine what is appropriate to be charged for the transfer of water. It also deals with how the payments will be made once the minister has set the payment levels. It states, for instance, under what conditions an approval might or might not be given and so on.

If the government had been really serious about prohibiting water transfers out of this province to the United States, not one of sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 would have been included in the original draft of the legislation.

1620

The minister has referred in his remarks to the federal legislation that was introduced after the concerns were raised by the opposition about the possibility of water transfers. The legislation recalled Bill C-156, Canada Water Protection Act. In that act, under section 9, “The minister may on application issue a licence authorizing the exportation or diversion of water.” It requires information to be provided and so on and talks about how payments can be arrived at for a fee to allow for the export of water.

So even the federal legislation provided by the Conservatives, which they have claimed will protect us from the wholesale transport of our water resources to the United States, does not do that at all either. I suppose that perhaps the provincial legislation may have influenced the drafting of the federal legislation, as the minister says.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The same draftsman.

Mr. Wildman: Exactly. The minister says that because of the introduction of this legislation in the provincial House, the government of Canada introduced this legislation. Well, the government of Canada’s legislation allows for the export of water. They followed this government’s example.

There are other sections. My colleague has provided me with a copy of section 5. It says here, “No person shall for the purpose of exporting water, divert water into boundary waters where,” and then it sets limits. All the federal government’s legislation does is set limits on the transfer of water, but still allows for it and allows for approvals. They must have followed this government’s example. In fact, the provincial Minister of Natural Resources, I suppose, encouraged the federal government to allow for the export of water, because as he says, his bill is

the one that influenced the drafting of the federal legislation.

It is obvious, from looking at the legislation as drafted, that this government was not really serious about stopping the export. As I have said, it was not really serious about challenging the free trade agreement. I am glad that the minister has now said he is interested in accepting amendments. But I wonder, after these bills have been on the order paper for so long, why it was so important to the government that we should be debating these pieces of legislation this week. I also wonder why it is that the minister, as soon as questions were raised about this legislation and the legislation was shown to be a vehicle for the export of water, said he would accept amendments that would prohibit the export of water.

We know this whole exercise has been a political exercise from beginning to end, an attempt to show that this government is opposed to the free trade agreement and trying to influence the outcome of the federal election campaign, when in fact the government never was serious about this legislation and was embarrassed about this legislation when it was shown that it was not going to do what the government said it was going to do.

I want to deal not with just the free trade agreement, I want to deal with the import of this legislation with regard to the preservation of our water resources, particularly in northern Ontario but throughout the province. I have already talked about the GRAND Canal project and how I am concerned about the fact that there are many Conservative and Liberal financial leaders in this country who have been hoodwinked into dreaming that there could be a GRAND Canal project and it might be feasible, despite all the ecological problems that would produce.

I also want to talk about the minister's view of the interprovincial transfer of water. As the minister indicated, the city of Winnipeg has been obtaining water from Shoal Lake since the early part of this century. As I indicated in response to the minister's comments, if Winnipeg has been getting water from Shoal Lake since 1913, we do not need legislation now to deal with that, to allow for it and to ensure that it can go—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Order. The member for Algoma has the floor and would like the opportunity to address the assembly.

Mr. Wildman: I would be happy to allow the minister to try to defend this terribly poorly drafted piece of legislation. If he thinks he needs

more time and he did not use enough time at the beginning to explain, to rationalize and to try to convince the members of this assembly and the people of this province that he is really concerned about the protection of our water resources rather than exporting the water to the United States and then getting revenue from it to this province, I would be quite happy to have the minister proceed, although I do not think it is within the rules of the House to allow him to speak twice on second reading.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We will give him unanimous consent.

Mr. Wildman: I would be prepared to give him unanimous consent, particularly if he were prepared to accept an amendment or to propose an amendment to his legislation which will say exactly the same thing as the amendment put forward by the New Democratic Party in the House of Commons. In the bill put forward by Mr. Riis, section 9—

Mr. Ballinger: What makes you guys think you're so smart?

Mr. Wildman: It does not take a genius to know this. All we have to say is "No person shall export water out of Canada," period.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Well, I'm putting that kind of an amendment in if you would give me time. That's all you have to do: sit down and let me do it.

Mr. Wildman: Why was he not able to do that in June? Because we know they never really intended to do it. The only reason they are doing it now is because we have shown the people of this province that this legislation was not designed to prohibit exports but rather to facilitate them.

I want to deal with the interprovincial transfer of water which the minister has been referring to. Obviously, there is a long-standing relationship between southern Manitoba—mostly Winnipeg—and northwestern Ontario with regard to water; but we also know that if the weather conditions that we experienced this year continue, with drastic effects on the soil of the southern prairies in Canada, there are going to be more and more demands for the water of northern Ontario, particularly northwestern Ontario.

While I recognize that we should accept the responsibility to assist in the development of irrigation projects that would help western Canada, because they benefit us all if they are well designed, rather than the rather poorly designed ones in southern California that have

produced salinification of many of the areas that have been irrigated over the years—

Mr. Ballinger: How do you spell that?

Mr. Wildman: It means too much salt in the soil.

I am very concerned about a bill that purports to set up a regime for the potentially increased transfer of water out of the northwest to other parts of Canada, and I will say why. We in the more southern parts of the province, even our provincial government, are not the only stewards of that water resource. There are a number of Indian treaties that govern those areas of the northwest, particularly Treaty 3 and Treaty 9.

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I wonder if the drafters of this legislation, when they looked at the possibility of the transfer of more water out of the northwest into western Canada, considered the interests of the aboriginal people, the treaty Indian bands in those areas.

The minister has referred to Shoal Lake. We know there are two bands on Shoal Lake now that have problems with water levels. There have been examples in other parts of the north where Ontario Hydro has adversely affected the life of the bands because of fluctuation in water levels. We have had experiences in this province, unfortunately, where we have poisoned the water of Indian bands, the most infamous one being the situation in the English-Wabigoon drainage basin.

All I am saying is that there is another interest. There are other people who are dependent on that water resource and who see themselves also as stewards of that resource. I am concerned about any attempt to give this government an authority to increase water exports that does not involve the proper consultation of the Indian bands and the treaty organizations in the northwestern part of the province.

Also, for obvious reasons, I am very concerned about any transfer of water that is not properly investigated under the Environmental Assessment Act. I do not see any reference in this bill, as yet at least, to environmental assessment. I do not see any reference in this bill to the protection of the ecology from the possible adverse effects of significant water diversions. Perhaps the minister intends to include those in his amendments.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I don't see them. He will sell us out again.

Mr. Wildman: I hope he does not. I hope the minister will include in his amendments reference to proper consultation with the other

stewards of the resource. That consultation could be done in the context of a proper and widespread environmental assessment of any water diversion proposal. I would hope that the minister would refer to that in his legislation so that he does not just see the transfer of water as a revenue-getter for the provincial government but sees it in the context not only of the people who are affected but of the flora and fauna that will be affected.

As the minister himself said, once we take water out of a drainage basin it can never be replaced. If we ever, heaven forbid, get into the major megaprojects like the GRAND Canal, there will be devastating ecological effects. To have no reference to a proper environmental assessment I think is a most inadequate approach.

I will conclude by saying this. This party, right from the beginning, has been categorically opposed to a further integration of our economy with the economy of the United States. We recognize that we are the major trading partner of the United States and Ontario is one of the largest, if not the largest, trading partners of the United States. We recognize that we need access to the American market for our products, whether they be raw materials or manufactured products. We also recognize that the Americans need our raw materials.

We recognize there has been protectionism growing in the United States and there needed to be some sorts of arrangements for dealing with disputes between us and our trading partner, but we have been working for proper dispute settlement mechanisms and for managed trade agreements similar to the auto pact, not a wide-ranging free trade agreement which would not only affect the economic relationship between the United States and Canada but also affect the way we can govern our own nation and our own province, which would affect the kinds of services that we could provide to our people, whether they be social services or medicare services. We have opposed that from the beginning and we have suggested alternatives that I referred to before.

We have been requesting that this provincial government stand up for the rights and the interests of the people of this province against the kind of pact that was negotiated by the federal government. This government has talked a good line, but the government has not done anything. The only thing it has done is introduce three pieces of legislation, one which it is not proceeding with, one which it has withdrawn and

one which has to be completely redrafted by amendment.

This government was never serious about actually acting in opposition to the free trade pact. They proved it with this meaningless piece of legislation. I think we can amend this bill so that it can protect the water resources of this province, if the government and the members of the assembly are serious about that. It is unfortunate that the government itself could not come up with those kinds of amendments without pressure from the opposition. It is an indication that they were not serious when they introduced this legislation, that it was just a political move to influence the federal election scene. That is why we are debating it now.

As a northerner, as an Ontarian, as a member of this assembly and as a New Democrat I am determined to do all I can with the members of my party to protect the water resource of this province, to ensure that we are giving it proper stewardship for the generations to come and to ensure that we have not entered into a situation in which we can allow any government to sell out that resource in any way.

I look forward to debating the minister's amendments and to putting forward the many amendments that we have for redrafting this piece of legislation so that it actually does what the minister says it was supposed to do.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any comments or questions pertaining to the speech by the member for Algoma?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have some comments but I was going to give the other people an opportunity, if they would. I have very brief comments.

I find it sort of odd that when you lay the truth on the table and make a commitment, the people over there do not really recognize it; but that should not surprise me because that is precisely what has been done throughout the moving of this bill. I accepted the fact that the leader of the official opposition had some concerns about exporting water outside of Canada. I have made a commitment to this Legislature and to the people in it that I am prepared to move such an amendment that will not allow water to be moved out of this jurisdiction into the US.

I am quite disturbed that anyone who would set himself up as a New Democrat and who would think in terms of what is good for Canadians would make the comment that he would in any way step in between Ontario and Manitoba when there is a need there for water from Shoal Lake. I

do not believe the member understood what he was saying.

I say, with the greatest of respect, the people of Ontario refer to themselves as Canadians. We have had the will to bring together for the national good a new understanding between the provinces, whether it be Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec or anywhere else. The member would put wedges in between, as he is proposing to do here, when we say we are leaving the option open where there is a part of Canada that needs help from Ontario.

The Premier has said many times, "We are ready to do what is in the best interest of this great nation of ours in dealing with our sister provinces." If the member is not prepared to do that, we are.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other comments on the speech by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman)? The member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Ballinger: Watch your blood pressure.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: My blood pressure's fine. Yesterday your face was as red as your poppy. I thought your head was going to explode.

The Acting Speaker: Through the chair, please.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I want to commend the member for Algoma on his comments. I was particularly interested in the comments that he made about why this government and why this minister would have brought in this legislation in its original form, allowing the sale and exportation of our water. That is exactly what the original bill did.

I found it interesting that the member for Algoma pointed out very clearly that the only way we got these amendments that have been brought forward was that the minister and the Liberal government were caught. They were caught by this party. The truth of the legislation came out when questions were asked in the House and it was pointed out to the minister last week that what the bill did was to provide for the exportation of water.

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Then there was a scrum outside the Legislature and the Minister of Natural Resources said to the members of the press that this bill was nothing to do with free trade; this bill was not put in place to facilitate the sale of water to the United States; this bill had something to do with the exportation of water to other provinces. Yet in the spring, when this bill was introduced, all of the press releases and promotion of this bill, Bill 147 and

the energy bill were that the Liberal government of Ontario was fighting free trade.

The reality is that this bill, along with the others, is exactly what the Liberal government has done all along. They talk a good line; they oppose free trade when they are in elections, but when it comes to governing they govern exactly like Conservatives. My friend the member for Algoma quoted the section of Mr. McMillan's bill, the federal bill, which is identical to the bill this minister presented.

Conservatives and Liberals are exactly the same on free trade, and this debate proves it.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Algoma has two minutes to reply.

Mr. Wildman: I thank the members for their comments. I can only say to the Minister of Natural Resources, "The truth will set you free." When the truth is set on the table, as he has said he has done, it is good for the soul. If the minister feels we are not being fair in not trusting him when he puts the truth before us, perhaps it is because it would be better for us if he would do it more often.

The question the minister has posed about Shoal Lake, that somehow I am trying to stand between the transfer of water from Shoal Lake to Winnipeg, is just silly.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I didn't say that; the member did.

Mr. Wildman: What I am disappointed he did not refer to in his response is that we should be ensuring there is the proper consultation with the Indian people who are dependent on that water resource, and we should also have proper environmental assessment whenever there is a transfer of water. That is what I said, and the minister knows that is what I said, and he did not respond to it. He does not respond to it at all in his legislation.

The fact is, when the minister introduced this piece of legislation he said it was designed to close the door—those were his words—on the export of water to the United States. We know that, as drafted, that legislation did not do that. Instead, it set up a tollgate. It set up a way for the government to gain revenue from the transfer of water to the United States. It did not deal with anything in terms of transfer of water to other provinces, which has gone on in the past.

We look forward to the amendments of the minister that will actually challenge the free trade deal and protect our water resources. I am not sure that we can do it, though, without accepting our amendment.

Mr. Villeneuve: I too want to participate in the debate for a short period of time this afternoon, a debate that can be best described as political posturing. It is a matter of defining water as whether it is or is not considered to be goods.

Having sat on the committee that studied the free trade deal very, very closely, having listened to many, many people who have made representations and also recognizing the fact that the federal government, in order to make sure that water is not considered to be a marketable good, brought in legislation before the election call which would effectively ensure that water is not a negotiable good between Canada and the United States, I had occasion to go and listen to an all-candidates debate last night. I came back rather stunned at some of the stories which are being perpetrated, particularly by two parties running in the federal election. Water is certainly a very important asset to our province and our country; however, some of the untruths and scare tactics being used by two of the major parties in this country are absolutely terrifying.

We have, in some instances, our senior citizens in a state of disarray simply because they have been told, with a great degree of truth-stretching by the two parties aspiring to power in this country, that our social services would be no more. In the free trade agreement, it has been unequivocally proven by Justice Hall, I believe, the man who initiated the Ontario health insurance plan for instance, and many others, that the two opposition parties at the federal level are simply and purely using scare tactics on our senior citizens. The same can be said about those who tell us that marketing boards will be no longer.

We have to remember that the free trade agreement is a bilateral agreement between the two major partners who have signed the deal. Canada exports close to 80 per cent of its export goods to the United States. Ontario is beyond 85 per cent. It is only natural. When the standing committee on finance and economic affairs of this Legislature visited Europe, Brussels and Geneva, we were told in no uncertain terms that what Canada was doing with the United States, its major trading partner, was a natural.

We are satisfied and the federal government has ensured that water will not be considered a marketable and tradable good. That is now enshrined in legislation at the federal level. Ontario comes up with political posturing, with a bill which, if you take it item by item, really does not do what it is intended to do. The amendments

may to some degree satisfy what the minister's political posture is. However, as it now stands, it leaves a great deal to be desired. Concerns, as far as we are concerned, have been adequately addressed by the federal government's amendment to Bill C-130 which states, for greater certainty, "Nothing in this act or agreement except article 401 of the agreement applies to water." Article 401 deals with the elimination of tariffs on traded bottled water.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It died on the order paper. There is no Bill C-130.

Mr. Villeneuve: It died on the order paper for a simple reason. The Senate of Canada, which happens to be controlled by a political party which is not in power, saw fit to interfere with the normal process of legislation, with the normal process of democracy.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: A damn good thing.

Mr. Villeneuve: The minister says he agrees with interference in democracy. I find that most difficult to understand.

In the free trade agreement, as I mentioned before, water is not a marketable good. I go back to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The free trade agreement is very compatible to the GATT. In the FTA, for instance, we have our marketing boards named as protected. We have historical import limits.

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If article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is challenged and defeated, we, the people who have supply-managed commodities, will be facing the very same situation as, for instance, the grape growers of Ontario who, faced with a GATT decision, have been told they have seven years to discontinue the discriminatory pricing of imported wines. If the FTA does not go through, we will have an identical situation facing the marketing boards should article XI of the GATT be challenged successfully. No one seems to bring that up.

To make absolutely sure that water is not considered a marketable good, there has been legislation at the federal level, similar to the bill we are debating today, and that legislation will be enacted as soon as a majority Progressive Conservative government is elected November 21.

I want to touch on a couple of other things. They may not refer directly to water, but indirectly water is certainly a part of them. Members will recall a certain poll that came out 10 days ago, showing that all of a sudden the Liberal Party of Canada was in the lead. Do

members recall what happened to the stock market that day, what happened to the value of the dollar that day?

The dollar, in spite of being supported very heavily by the Bank of Canada, fell by the largest amount it had fallen in 10 years. The same situation occurred again this week when a poll came out. The dollar tumbled again, in spite of strong support by the Bank of Canada. I think our Ontario and Canadian public has to realize the very dire economic circumstances that would occur should, as Mr. Turner and Mr. Broadbent have said, the FTA be torn up.

We will have, under the FTA guidelines, rules and regulations, bilateral dispute mechanisms that do not have to wait for GATT decisions, which seem to take for ever and very often are controlled by the European Community, a very strong economic force to be reckoned with, presently the strongest at the GATT table.

Bill 175 is a political move, and if I were not satisfied that it was the timing would be the proof of the pudding. The timing of this bill during an election campaign would simply serve to perpetrate further some of the nontruths that are being perpetrated by the two official opposition parties fighting the federal general election.

The Americans were informed by the federal government of the amendment to Bill C-130 naming water as a nontradable commodity, and they had no objections to it. This lends considerable credibility to the position that fresh water, in the opinion of the Americans, was never a marketable, tradable good. They did not object.

The provincial government comes along and literally tries to duplicate and take a political posture, as it did leading up to the September 10, 1987, election. I cannot help but emphasize the very small warnings that have been issued to us, based on polling that showed that possibly Mr. Turner and his tear-up-the-FTA program would come to power.

The minister appears to want to see the economic demise of this country. The Bank of Canada strongly supported our dollar on two occasions in the last week, because polls were indicating that there may not be a Progressive Conservative Party in power after November 21 to implement the free trade agreement, which was negotiated by the best trade negotiator that we have in Canada, the same man who negotiated the auto pact, a deal that could very well go down the pipe should the FTA not be put into place.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You don't call that scare tactics you're using? You know that's not going to happen.

Mr. Villeneuve: The minister says I know that is not going to happen. Please allow me a minute, Mr. Speaker, to tell him that when we were in the United States—in Washington, to be exact—we had a presentation by the United Auto Workers of America, who said, “We do not want to see the free trade agreement come into place.” The next logical question was “Why?” I will tell members why. They told us it was because it reinforces the auto pact, which is slanted very much in favour of the Canadian auto manufacturers. That is why they did not want the free trade in place. Second, immediately upon the free trade agreement being torn up, as the minister and the leader of the federal Liberal Party have advocated, then they would give us our 12-month notice that the auto pact is to be no more. It is as simple as that.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Who said that?

Mr. Villeneuve: My friend and colleague from the New Democratic Party was there that morning and he heard it, as well as seven Liberal members who were on that committee in Washington in April.

In closing, I have difficulty with the political posturing and the timing that this minister has chosen to bring in Bill 175, a bill that need not be, a bill that may even prevent us from dealing with our provincial friends in Quebec and in Manitoba. This report by the standing committee of the Legislature—and this is one that not only we support but we initiated and brought forth—was to dismantle and eliminate as much as possible interprovincial barriers to trade in goods and labour. Why, then, should we be bringing in legislation such as Bill 175 that may even make it difficult to deal on an interprovincial basis with our sister provinces? As I said at the outset, this is nothing more, nothing less than political posturing by the Liberal government of the province of Ontario, in spite of their Liberal colleagues in the province of Quebec taking a totally different stance on free trade and being very satisfied that water, fresh water, is not a negotiable and marketable good.

In closing, I say to members that should the polls indicate—and it is very possible next week—that the Progressive Conservatives have taken the lead again, I would almost bet a couple of dollars that we will have a stronger Canadian dollar, the Canadian economy will be buoyant again, our stock markets will stop falling and people will regain confidence. I have spoken to a lot of people in the last week, and members would be surprised how many are pulling their money out of the stock market and getting into what they feel would be a safer investment.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity of participating in this debate, which I feel is totally useless because it is a bit of political posturing at best.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the member's statement?

Mr. Mackenzie: I have just one question. There is some opposition to the auto pact. There has been opposition for a long time from American auto workers; that is true. They are also not in favour of the free trade arrangement, but for different reasons.

There is a very selective approach to this question that has been raised a number of times by my colleague the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve). Their chief concern about the agreement is the same concern that most working people have, that the Canadian Labour Congress has, that the Ontario Federation of Labour has and that the AFL-CIO in the United States has, and that is that it is an agreement that gives the business community the decision-making powers, removes government from many, many government initiatives and would make the companies they deal with and the corporations even more powerful than they are now. That is their concern, much more so than dealing specifically with the auto pact. I think the member should acknowledge that that also was made very clear at our Washington meetings.

1700

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We got a little bit away from the bill, talking about free trade, but I would like to respond very briefly to some of the comments the member made.

First, he talked about the Senate. The reason I say that the Senate may have saved Canada was that you could not trust the leader who said during his campaign for leadership, “I will not talk free trade now during the leadership and I will not talk free trade in the future.” He did not have a mandate from the people of Canada to decide to run with that ball to Washington. It is a good thing the Senate was there so that at least the people of Canada are going to have a chance to vote on what was an initiative taken by someone who did not have the mandate to take it.

As far as free trade is concerned, a couple of comments should be put on the record. The Americans are going there with a huge trade deficit. Anybody who is naïve enough to think that we are going to come out of this with help to us as traders has to be somewhere else on the scene, because that is not why they are coming to the table. This huge trade deficit has to be taken care of by the Americans.

The other problem I have is with the salesmen who are selling free trade. Look at Mr. Mulroney's record. All he did down in Quebec was close down jobs. Look at Mr. Crosbie's record. He wanted to take Newfoundland into the US and not into Confederation. Now they bring Mr. Bouchard on the scene. He was a separatist.

I do not care what they were. This is a very important issue for Canada, more so than any particular party, so their salesmen do not impress me as looking out for the best interests of Canada. Those members should know that, as the other two parties do.

Mr. Villeneuve: To my colleague from the New Democratic Party who was in Washington, at least he admits that there is a very strong possibility that if this free trade agreement is not signed, there will be terrific pressure from American unions to get rid of 100,000 or more automotive jobs here in Canada, primarily here in Ontario. That is a very real possibility. Those jobs are part of why we have a buoyant economy.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The FTA kills the auto pact.

Mr. Villeneuve: The FTA reinforces the auto pact, according to American unions. We all heard it. It is a matter of interpretation; but there were people there from both the Liberal Party and the NDP who heard it and who squirmed when they heard it.

When the Prime Minister of Canada initially said he did not think free trade was possibly such a good deal, he had to look at a situation that we did not have: the omnibus bill on the horizon that we now have. The free trade agreement was initiated by one Liberal government back in 1982 and was proceeding on a sector-by-sector basis, which would not have been compatible with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

When the minister gets up and says the salesmen of this free trade agreement are not to be trusted, he is talking about eight out of 10 provincial premiers. I think that is a terrible thing to say to our provincial premiers—every one except those in Ontario and Prince Edward Island. That is what the minister said. He has accused them of being slippery salesmen.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity of participating.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Oh, I didn't say that at all. I said your leader down there in Ottawa doesn't know what he's doing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They are slippery.

Mr. Villeneuve: If there was an NDPer, there might not be; but there is none.

Mr. Mackenzie: It is a privilege to participate in this debate, because I do think, as I said on the nonconfidence motion we had on the free trade debate the other day, we are dealing with the most important issue that faces our country.

Water has been sort of the sleeper in the whole debate we have had over free trade and the agreement that it is suggested we sign with the United States. I think a lot more attention should be given to it by Canadians, members of all legislatures and certainly members in this House.

I will deal at some length a little later with Bill 175, but I think a bit of lead-up to it is important. However, in doing the lead-up to it, I want to make it clear that the question my colleague the member for Algoma asked is a very valid one. I think I can underline some of it with comments that both the minister made and the Premier made earlier on about why we ended up with this particular bill.

I appreciate that the minister may now be ready to amend it, and we will certainly take a serious look at the amendments; but this bill, in terms of doing what the intent was, is literally not much better than garbage. The energy bill was not any better; it has been withdrawn. The medical one is not a heck of a lot better.

We have three bills in this House that do not do what they were supposed to do. You have to seriously question it. It is not a case of not having had some understanding of the depth of feeling of people in this country and in this House of the need to protect our province and our province's rights.

We had a very good debate in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs on this particular issue. A number of people raised the issue of water, but the ones who made the most impression on most members of the committee, whether or not they agreed with them, were M. G. Clark, retired deputy head of the Canadian delegation to the GATT Tokyo round—a very knowledgeable gentleman, as it turned out—and D. J. Gamble, executive director of the Rawson Academy of Aquatic Science, Ottawa and Calgary. As I understand it—although I did not know; I had only heard of these two gentlemen previously—the Rawson Academy of Aquatic Science is a group of some 40 or 50 scientists in this country whose chief concern is water and what the future of it is, what is happening in terms of water and everything relating to water in this particular country of ours.

Their testimony, the exhibit they presented to us on June 16, I would recommend to members

of this House as, to me, one of the more interesting and fascinating segments of the committee hearings. In the report we issued, we sort of summarized the comments made to us by Mr. Clark. As I say, he is not unknowledgeable. He was deputy head and sat through all of the Tokyo round, and he had been involved in trade talks prior to that as well, so he certainly is a knowledgeable gentleman, now retired.

The following arguments were made. This is committee summary of it from our researches and with the agreement of the various members of the committee. To quote from page 56 of the committee report:

"On the subject of water, Mr. Clark, former deputy head of the Canadian delegation to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Tokyo round, concluded that all water is included in the agreement and, furthermore, that the agreement gives the US substantially greater rights than exist under the GATT regarding the control and export of Canada's resources. Mr. Clark's statement to the committee outlined the two arguments behind his contention. He stated that the text of the agreement refers repeatedly to the term 'good.' For example, article 105 states that 'each party shall, to the extent provided in this agreement, accord national treatment with respect to trade in goods and services.' The text also states that a good is defined as it is understood in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. For years water has been bound in various countries' schedules annexed to the GATT. More recently, the harmonized system, developed by the Customs Co-operation Council in Brussels, but adopted by the GATT, includes a tariff item for water. It is beyond reasonable doubt that the GATT would understand water as a good. Additionally, tariff item 22.01, which is in both the American and Canadian schedules annexed to the agreement is identical to the item in the harmonized system that includes all natural waters. It reads, 'waters, including natural or artificial mineral waters and aerated waters not containing added sugar or other sweetened matter nor flavoured; ice and snow.' Any good covered by a tariff item annexed to the agreement is subject to the provisions of the agreement itself. Mr. Clark believes that the agreement would override the federal government's water policy in a conflict and also federal and provincial laws and regulations."

Whether or not he is totally right, it was certainly a powerful argument, and there was much more to it than that. That is just the section we summarized in this particular report. I think

also it is useful to go to page 75 in the report the committee did for a very brief additional piece:

"The act was referred to the parliamentary committee on Bill C-130 which reported on August 10, 1988. Although the majority of the amendments were of a minor nature, several substantive amendments were made. The federal parliamentary committee attempted to address the water issue by exempting it from the terms of the bill; however, most members of this committee are of the view that this amendment was not effective, because of a loophole in the agreement itself."

1710

Once again, whether we are totally right or not, there were serious questions in the minds of all of us on the committee, and in the minds of the witnesses before us, as to whether or not the issue had been dealt with.

It was interesting, in the course of the argument and debate on this particular issue, to get some of the comments that were made about this particular matter, and how it came about that we did not get the protection we were supposed to get on the item of water.

Before I switch to that, I want to read into the record one other very short comment. When we talk about people being maligned or pressure being put on or wild arguments being made, I recall, I believe it was Mr. Crosbie talking about Marjorie Montgomery Bowker, who asked, "What did that little old lady know?" I thought that was an insult of the top order. If we want to talk about the kinds of insults that have been thrown around, that one is one of the tops in this country.

Marjorie Bowker, who to the best of my knowledge is certainly not a New Democrat, and who served for 17 years as a family court judge in Alberta and for a good many years as a lawyer with one of the top firms in Edmonton, had the following comment in her analysis of the free trade agreement:

"As to the risk of Canada being forced to export water to the US, (water not being covered in the agreement), political promises to the contrary are not enough. Once the free trade deal comes into effect, and in the absence of legislation forbidding it, Canada will be in a poor bargaining position against US pressure to divert water, the most recent pressure being for diversion from the Great Lakes into the drought-stricken Mississippi basin.

"In all the ongoing bargaining implicit in the free trade agreement, Canada throughout will be the weaker party at the negotiating table. Our

lack of success on the acid rain issue is indicative of that."

I think that is a very telling and a very perceptive comment made by Marjorie Montgomery Bowker. I would be interested in hearing whether to some members of this Legislature the same comment applies, "What does that old lady know about this issue?" or whether they will give her credit for some hard, honest research and an opinion which she has been ready to back up on television screens in debates right across this country.

I think we have to be concerned. My colleague, in order to spare my having to cover a lot of it, dealt at some length with the GRAND Canal project, but there are two or three things that I think are worth summarizing on that once again. If I can find the comments I am specifically looking for, I would like to point out that it is one of the questions we asked in the committee of the same Mr. Clark and Mr. Gamble, whether or not behind part of this issue might be the whole matter of the GRAND Canal project and the possible future export of water from this country.

The GRAND Canal project, when I first started reading about it two or three years ago, and it scared me almost from the first time I took a look at it, has some powerful backers. It is not a wild dream that some people seem to think it is. I had a list here. What I was looking for were some of the engineering companies in this country that have drawn up studies for, and in some cases sit on the board of, the GRAND Canal project. There is Bechtel and a number of the top names in the engineering field and major engineering companies in this country of ours. Indeed, until he was forced to step down because he was our free trade negotiator, Simon Reisman was one of the directors of that. One of our major banks has, I think, something like \$40 million or \$50 million in this particular project.

In other words it is there: the studies, the major engineering companies, in a project that, while it has not proceeded, has very much been in the concept stage in a number of pretty powerful peoples' minds.

It did require damming at the top of James Bay. Because of the flow of the rivers into the James Bay area itself, it would eventually have meant that the bay would be fresh water. It did require in the plans—there were fairly extensive plans, which have been debated, on this—some six or seven nuclear power plants across northern Ontario, because there was about a two-foot shift of water that had to be achieved, to drive that

water south once they had dammed James Bay and it had become fresh water.

There was no question what the purpose of that would be and where it would be going in a number of years' time, no question whatsoever. It would be sold to the United States of America. The number of people and the kind of people who were behind that means we have at least to keep it under consideration as to whether or not this was one of the things we were really taking a look at in this particular deal on water.

Having said that, I refer again, if I can, to the bill before us. I am not going to spend the time that my colleagues have taking it apart, because without the amendments the minister is prepared to move, it is obviously, I gather, not worth the paper it is written on. As a matter of fact, to have any use for this bill at all, if you take a look at Bill 175, you have to totally remove from section 2, take out, starting halfway through that paragraph, "without the written approval of the minister"; and take out sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and totally delete them to give that bill any real meaning.

Why do we not accept the minister's word? Why do we not move in a hurry on it? Being very blunt with the minister, it is a matter of trust. I know what the Tories are trying to do. I am not at all sure what the government is trying to do on this. I have a number of reasons for that. I want to go back to June 29, 1988, when the minister brought his bill into the House, and just read a couple of the comments he made:

"Today I would like to bring a bill before the House which will assert Ontario's constitutional authority to control and manage its water supply. The bill is the Water Transfer Control Act. The Water Transfer Control Act will ensure that there is a secure supply of water for Ontarians and Canadians by controlling the transfer of water out of any of the five major drainage basins in the province."

He goes on to make a few other comments and then, towards the end of his statement, he says, and I ask members to think about this for a moment, "I am sure members of this House will agree that our government must not accept any ambiguity about the province's ability and determination to manage our water supplies."

He goes on, in his last sentences, to say: "I would ask members to support speedy passage of this bill. We must reassure the people of Ontario of their government's determination to prevent the free trade agreement from creating uncertainty about Ontario's water supply. Today, with this

legislation, this government asserts its responsibility to protect our water resources."

I ask you—"I am sure members of this House will agree that our government must not accept any ambiguity about the province's ability," and then we had this bill. Somebody was asleep at the switch. The minister either did totally misread it or did not know what they were preparing if it was not deliberate. He came in with a bill that does not assure us of no ambiguity whatsoever. It almost blows the mind when you take a look at his statement.

I think it is also worth going a little further that same day. The member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), the leader of the Conservative Party, questioned him about it: "Why do you really have to do this? Don't you know it's really the position of the federal party in any event? Why are you bringing this bill in? We've already assured federally you cannot transfer the water."

The Premier, in reply, said the following, and I found this almost delicious: "I am very mindful of the history on this and the strong position that Premier Davis and his representatives took. It is an interesting thing. When I assumed this office, I had a little conversation with former Premier Davis, and he said to me, 'One thing, David, never to forget is never give away our water,' because he was mindful of the threat, as others are as well."

"Never give away our water"—the advice given by Premier Davis to the Premier. That was the same day. I am giving members that to put the context there, to tell them why we have some serious reservations about what this government was doing, given that kind of position at that time and the kind of bill we got and what we know about the other two bills that are supposed to deal with the same kind of affirmation on Ontario's opposition to the free trade bill.

I would think as well—if I can find it, it is worth taking a look at something else. We have made it clear that what this bill does in effect, as it stands now without the amendments, is it allows some regulation; it really allows the minister, if he wants, to sell the water.

1720

The feds brought in a bill that was supposed to handle this. I think it was C-156 in the House of Commons. We ought to take a look at it and take a look at some of the sections.

"4. No person shall export any water, either directly or by so diverting water, for the purpose of exporting water, as to increase the flow of water at the international boundary, where

"(a) the daily mean discharge of the water exported exceeds one cubic metre per second; or

"(b) the quantity of the water exported during a calendar year exceeds 20,000 cubic decametres."

It goes on with two or three more sections like this, which is really regulating; you can export so much or so much. It goes on to say also that if the minister wants to give permission to export, there are certain forms and things that have to be filled out.

If you take a look at it, you will find that the bill we got from this minister and the bill that the feds brought in read almost the same. They are both regulating water. They are not denying the export of it whatsoever. They are both regulating it and setting up conditions. You have to wonder then, what is the difference between the two of them? What is the bottom line? What is the real position on this particular issue?

I went through some documentation we had and I came to another bill, the private member's bill moved in the federal House by one of my federal colleagues, Nelson Riis, and it was on the water diversion as well. Let me get down to the operative section of the bill, section 9—I will not read them all; I know my colleague has dealt with these to some extent: "No person shall export water from Canada by interbasin transfers."

I ask members to compare the federal bill, which was supposed to be the answer, according to some of my Tory colleagues, and obviously was not. Their people were not sure whether it was good enough or not. Most of them thought it was not quite good enough. Compare the minister's first bill, which is no different from the federal Conservative bill, with the bill that was moved by the New Democrats in the federal House. There is a world of difference. We say that at least shows the commitment to this.

The Liberals may end up having a stronger commitment. I do not know what those people are going to do, although I would not have said what I did before if I did not say I am suspicious. I am little bit cynical, I guess. Frankly, given what has happened in this House, and being honest with them, I do not trust them. I am not sure what is going to happen.

It did take some pressure and it did take a very clear outline of what is now obvious, that those bills—all three of them, incidentally, but certainly this water bill—did not do what they were purported to do, before the minister was prepared to bring in amendments in this House. I congratulate him on now being prepared to bring them in. We will take a look at them and see if

they go far enough. But if he really is wondering why he gets the kind of reservations from this side of the House, there should be no doubt in anybody's mind, given the kind of material that I have put before him.

I want to move back again for just a moment or two because I think it is something that we had better keep in mind, and I am going back now to the broader view in this particular scenario.

The feds got away with one fast move when they said that water was supposed to be excluded from the bill. Indeed, Mr. McMillan, and I think it was a gentleman who is a lawyer—I forget his name now; it is in the records of the Hansards from the day that we had these people before us—said that there was supposed to be an exclusion in the bill and it was there. Of course, when he was challenged and it was pointed out that it was not there, the federal Tories at that time, as members may remember, were very, very embarrassed.

That is why we have the bill they brought in, but also, as I say, a bill that regulates and does not deny the exports of water. It is certainly not adequate at the federal level.

I think it is worth going back for a moment to the testimony before our committee as well, when we were talking about just how important water is to us. I know it is stretching it a bit, but I will comment just briefly and I will be briefer than my colleague was on the GRAND Canal project once again, but it is because of the implications of it.

Here is a fairly influential group of Canadians—one of the directors, as I said before, being Simon Reisman before he had to step down while he was negotiating—being on the board of this particular company in this project. As I said, a number of the top engineering firms in this country are involved in it. They are wondering, I guess, if it will float or if it will fly or if they can sell such a scheme. The potential is enormous, if they could pull it off. The costs would be enormous too, and I am not sure it ever could really go ahead.

But just as I have difficulty with people who would propose the free trade agreement, which I think is a sellout of our country, I have difficulty with people who would put this kind of project forward. You might say: "Okay, it could be tremendous, our rivers flowing to the north, and we can change the bay into fresh water. We might put these nuclear power plants across and transfer it and we might be able to make hundreds of millions of dollars to sell this water."

I would hope the members of this House would go back and do a little research as well, because we asked questions. I asked questions of the gentlemen we had before us, just to make sure that it was not something I had read or that I was not off base in the comments. I am going to repeat one of the first questions I asked, if I can. I was not looking for great detail. I was addressing this to Mr. Gamble, the water scientist who had appeared before our committee:

"The Grand Canal project as such is one of the major propositions. Was it a potentially viable project at all in terms of money, directors? I understand that Mr. Reisman was a director of that particular company for a while. I had also heard that there was a fair amount of money in the company, including a substantial amount of money from one of our banks. I forget which one, but are you aware of just how viable that corporation was?"

Here is the piece I was looking for earlier. I think it is worth saying. This is a direct quote back from the Hansard, from Mr. Gamble:

"A quick answer to your question: The company is private; it is very difficult to get access to that information. The only information I have is included in the article I wrote in *Northern Perspectives*, which Mr. Haggerty referred to. All I can say is that the company is backed by the major engineering firms in Canada. These are big multinational companies: the SNC Group, the UMA Group, Bechtel Canada Ltd. That gives us some indication of what is behind it, its potential resources. What that means in what their budgets are like or how much they are investing is something I cannot answer, and I do not know anybody else who can."

I asked a number of other questions along the same line, and he kept giving us what information he had. He was quite knowledgeable about it. Then I asked Mr. Gamble a question about the viability of the project and what it could mean in terms of this country. I asked in the context of an article—and this is what I am suggesting some of the members of this House do a little research on—of what has happened in the last few months in the Soviet Union, where in terms of actually diverting water flowing into the north, to the Arctic Ocean, they are probably ahead of everybody. There are one or two fairly major rivers that have actually been diverted in the Soviet Union, and the waters have been diverted to the southern part of it.

An awful lot of money was involved in a third project in the Soviet Union, to divert another

river—I am not sure how major it was—to the south, because there is a need for water in much of the southern part of the Soviet republics. What has happened to that? In spite of a figure, a figure that appeared in the local press—it seems to me it was about \$750 million—in spite of that amount of money already going into a project, there was a decision very decisively and very suddenly, just a matter of months ago, by the Russians to cancel that project, to walk away from the fantastic investment in it.

I asked Mr. Gamble and Mr. Clark if they were aware of this, and they were, although not much more than what I had seen in the particular articles in the newspaper. Why was the decision made to walk away from an investment that was getting awfully close to \$1 billion already and when they had had a couple of successful or so-called successful diversions? We do not know. Everything is not yet open, unfortunately, and may not be for a long while in Soviet society. But we do know at least what appeared in the official releases that were issued and what came back in through the Canadian media.

What they simply stated was that the environmental problems and the potential disaster were so great that they had finally—or suddenly or however it had happened, I do not know—realized the danger of this project, that in spite of the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars it was cancelled like that and they were now not proceeding with any more of these diversion projects from the north to the south in the Soviet Union.

I raise that only because, given their system and probably not the kind of open debate we have, if they think it is something that is going to supply water to some of the more arid republics I suspect there is one hell of a lot of pressure to do just that in that particular country, but the facts are that somebody woke up in time and they made a major decision in time.

That may be peripheral, one might say, but I am simply pointing out that I have not heard of these same major engineering firms and companies that were looking at something like the GRAND Canal project putting any effort into taking a look at what might be the environmental results of such a diversionary scheme.

1730

One of my colleagues, the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren)—or maybe it was my colleague the member for Algoma, I forget which—tried to raise the concern that some of the Indian bands have over the transfer or the

reversal possibly changing water patterns in water basins in this country of ours.

I think it is much more than just what it might do to some of the native people in the north. I suspect we might be playing Russian roulette with the entire ecological system in this country with that kind of project. That may never go ahead, but there is enough to it and there has been enough publicity on it, enough people involved in it, that it should scare the living bejesus out of most of us. It should not be allowed to happen.

It is one more reason, clearly, that we have to have a position which makes it absolutely certain we are not playing games with our water, that it is utterly forbidden in terms of any agreement we have signed with the United States and that the minister's bill which is approved in this House, if the intent is to stop that kind of misuse of our water, is clear.

Without being any unkindler than I have been, I want the minister to know that our problem is one of faith. Our problem is looking at and wondering how he could have been so restricted or ill-informed or badly advised as to have brought in the kind of bill he has brought in, which certainly is very much the same as the federal Tory bill, which we do not think is adequate; which certainly is not as clear as the bill we have brought in, whether that would ever be something he would look at, and does not do what has to be done.

I say to him, as I say to my Tory colleagues, that I think this issue is too important. This issue of the future use of our water and who controls it may be the real sleeper in the whole free trade argument that Canadians are having today. We have to be absolutely certain that the legislation which passes this particular House is legislation that does what we want it to do. For that reason, we intend to be supportive if we think it is strong enough. If not, the minister is going to have one hell of a fight on his hands, as far as we are concerned. There is just too darn much at stake.

Mr. Villeneuve: In replying to my colleague from the New Democratic Party, I recall well when Mel Clark and Don Gamble came to our committee. I believe the date was June 16 of this year. They expressed concern that we had not heard from experts on the GATT, people who had experience in dealing with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. I was intrigued and certainly had some questions.

However, since that time, the federal government has said unequivocally in the amendment to Bill C-130 and the recently introduced Bill C-156, the Canada Water Preservation Act, that

federal water policy bans large-scale water exports. Our water is not for sale.

It would be impossible, I tell my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), to exclude what was not included in the first place. The amendment to Bill C-130, the federal water policy, and Bill C-156 provide, in my opinion, adequate protection. I feel satisfied. I had some questions on that June day after Mr. Gamble and Mr. Clark made their presentation.

Bill 175, the Water Transfer Control Act, if passed, will establish for the first time in our province's history, in direct contradiction to the policies pursued by previous administrations, a system for regulating by ministerial consent the transfer and sale of Ontario water, something unheard of before.

All of a sudden the minister wants to call himself lord and master of Ontario water and price it to whomever, whatever. I find it somewhat alarming that indeed he calls this protecting our water and is in the process of putting a price on it.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would be alarmed if I were a Tory and saw what was happening to my friends in Ottawa as well, but that is not the question.

I want to direct this to the New Democratic Party because I do not know how I can put it in any stronger terms. I appreciate where they are coming from, but I think they have to admit, in the first instance, that there was a reaction when this bill was placed, as much as they feel this was not adequate, because only then did the federal government bring its bill forward. I do not know why the member over there keeps talking about it, because they did not see fit to push it through the House; it died on the Orders and Notices paper. The member can forget talking about that bill; it is gone. Now we are talking about our bill here.

I want to direct this comment to the NDP, and I want to say it after every one of its speakers speaks. When the Leader of the Opposition got up and suggested that there was an aspect to it that he was not satisfied with, I did not go back and ask anyone whether it should happen but immediately said, "If there is any question about the bill...." In my opening statement I said, and I say again, I am introducing an amendment to the Water Transfer Control Act which states that the Minister of Natural Resources will not approve any transfer of water to a place outside Canada. That is the amendment I am going to put, and I cannot believe that the NDP would not be satisfied with that amendment. That is unequivocal

and deals directly with the question that the Leader of the Opposition put and that I am pleased to put as an amendment.

Mr. Wildman: I would like to commend my colleague the member for Hamilton East on his thoughtful remarks with regard to the effects of water transfers and how they relate to the so-called free trade agreement between Mulroney and Reagan.

I say to my Conservative colleague from the united counties that the amendment put in Ottawa is designed and written in the same way as the original draft of this bill that we are debating today. It is designed to allow for transfers of waters and it sets the regulations, the way to do it, how the price will be arrived at and so on; so it is not adequate. It is not nearly as adequate as the private member's bill put forward by Nelson Riis, the New Democrat in the House of Commons whom my colleague referred to.

In terms of why we do not trust the federal legislation that was put forward, I have indicated what is wrong with the legislation itself, but I will just say that if this is a sacred trust the way the indexing of old age pensions was for Mr. Mulroney, then we all have some reason to understand why we do not have a great deal of trust.

With regard to the minister's comments about why we are not satisfied, I just reiterate the comments made by colleague from Hamilton East, that we are afraid and unhappy about what we consider to be the lack of sincerity on the part of the Ontario Liberal Party with regard to this whole issue.

From the beginning of the discussion on free trade, this has been a political façade for the members of the provincial Liberal Party. The fact is that the party has talked a good line. Then on those few occasions when it actually took action, it was inadequate, and this bill is an example of that.

Mr. Callahan: The reality of it is that people talk about the United States wanting our natural resources. One of the most significant natural resources is water, and as they pollute their waters they are going to require ours. I suggest to members that one day it may be as valuable as oil.

I find it interesting that the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry talks about Mr. Mulroney and his efforts to try to protect the water. It was not in the agreement, so he tried to pass legislation. As the minister said, it died with the Parliament. That is the kind of trust you can

put in him. It was a total watering down of the entire issue.

The members over there see what is happening in this country. People are getting behind John Turner, and John Turner is fighting the issue of his life, which I think should be the issue of the life of every Canadian. What the members over there are trying to do is get some free air time for their political parties to try to bolster the polls because they know exactly where they are going. They stand up here in this House and honestly try to say that there is something to be voted for in their parties. There is nothing to be voted for in their parties. Their parties are going down the tube. They are trying to water the whole situation down.

1740

The Deputy Speaker: Would the member for Hamilton East wish to respond?

Mr. Mackenzie: Just very briefly, because I did not want to or intend to, nor did I, I thought, get into any kind of a slanging match here today, but I made my feelings known as strongly as I could.

To my colleague in the Conservative Party, I would simply point out to him that even if I am not totally right on the bill that the Tories brought in, which then died on the order paper, there are at least as many experts, at least as many—I would say more, but I will be kind and say 50-50—who do not think it does what he says it does in that particular legislation. If the issue is as important as I think it is, then that is not good enough. There is a great division on just exactly what that particular bill means.

I say to my colleague and to the minister who is shepherding this bill through that I tried to make the point as clear as I could. These issues were all out. I do not know how much talking goes on within his own party. Maybe on this issue, the free trade issue, there is some difficulty because obviously the Liberal Party has a fair number of prominent people who are in disagreement with his position or his government's so-called position on the trade issue.

I could list them. We did it the other day. I could do it again. I could list members in this House whom I have heard in past years say they believe in free trade, prominent front-bench members in this party. All I am saying is that we know there are splits in his party on this issue. He did bring in this bill, which did not deal with the problem. He had plenty of notice, plenty of time. It was not until he really got nailed in this House on it that we saw him prepared to move. That does not mean we will not support him. We may

now support what he does. We are going to take a good look at it.

All I am saying is that it sure did not give me a heck of a lot of confidence in the Liberal Party of Ontario, given what he brought in and how he was forced into making the move to agree that it needed to be toughened up. That is not good enough because the issue is just too all-pervasive and important.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up. Do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Sterling: The greatest threat to our water resources, the resources of our province, is John Turner. How is John Turner going to pay for \$32 billion in election promises if he does not sell off the resources of our province? How is he going to do that?

I throw that out as my opening remark because that is about the level of debate that we should engage in on this phoney bill. This is such a phoney undertaking that it degrades the Legislature that we are wasting our time this afternoon on this matter.

As a matter of fact, the Premier and his cabinet colleagues find this so important that when they were talking about the free trade deal before the election on September 10, 1987, there were six points the Premier put forward that he would not approve a free trade deal on. The first point was, "No deal without an acceptable dispute settlement mechanism." Any mention about water? No, no mention about water. The second point was, "No deal unless we can support regional development." Any mention of water or resources? No. "No deal if it hurts the farmers." Any mention of water? No.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sterling: "No deal if we cannot screen foreign investment." Has that anything to do with water? No. "No deal if it threatens our cultural identity." Any mention of water or resources? No. "No deal if it guts the auto pact." The auto pact, of course, has nothing to do with our water resources or our other resources.

The fact of the matter is that this government has carried on a charade against the free trade deal before the last provincial election and after the last provincial election. The fact of the matter is—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I have a feeling that it must be quarter to six on Thursday. Could I have one member at a time, please? If other

members want to use question-and-answer period to make questions and comments, they are most welcome.

Mr. Sterling: What we see from this government is an attempt to bring into the Ontario Legislature matters which are being discussed on the hustings for our federal election. Therefore the government party, by bringing forward this bill at this time, is doing nothing more than denigrating the process here in the Legislature of Ontario.

We should be getting on with the business of the Legislature of Ontario, we should be getting on with the business and the problems we are facing. God knows, since this government came in they have been growing day by day. We should get on with that business and deal with real matters of substance rather than this phoney act.

Ninety per cent of the population of Ontario lives within the water basins that drain into the Great Lakes. The bill we are discussing today does not even involve the Great Lakes; it has nothing to do with the Great Lakes of Ontario. The minister knows they are under federal jurisdiction and they are under the International Joint Commission. Even the minister has said to me that this bill does not deal with the Great Lakes of Ontario or the St. Lawrence River.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is all described in here: water basins—

Mr. Sterling: If the minister would like to stand up and correct me and say this bill does deal with Lake Ontario, Lake Huron and Lake Superior, I will accede to having him intervene in this debate. Does it deal with them?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: If the member wants me to describe it, I will: "For the purposes of this act, Ontario is divided into four provincial drainage basins as follows:

"1. Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River."

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would the member for Carleton resume?

Mr. Sterling: The minister, of course, did not answer my question about whether Lake Ontario itself, Lake Erie, the St. Lawrence River, Lake Huron and Lake Superior are included. They are not included because the minister has no jurisdiction over them.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We are just going to get your guys to get off their butts and—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: What this bill says in essence is that if the United States decides to drain Lake Michigan, the only way this guy can stop them is by damming every river and every creek which flows into Lake Superior on the Canadian side, or Lake Huron, the part above the opening to Lake Michigan.

In other words, this act is a joke. Not only is it a joke, it is damning to our relations with the United States in dealing with the Great Lakes in the future. We have to deal with the fact that Lake Michigan is totally within the boundaries of the United States of America. We have no jurisdiction over that lake at all. Therefore, if they utilize water or divert water out of Lake Michigan, they can do that unilaterally.

The minister continues to joke with regard to this particular act. He set up a phoney ruse as to the fact that somehow Ontario can deal with water exiting from the Great Lakes. The fact of the matter is that this has nothing to do with the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are, in fact, the life thread of the province of Ontario, and the minister knows that in terms of hydro, in terms of the usage of water, even for communities as far inland as London and Newmarket, it is the life thread for transportation and for many other parts of what is going on.

1750

In fact, what we have here is an act which pretends to protect the water from flowing into the Great Lakes. I do not believe that we are going to discuss this act for one minute after the federal election on November 21. The other fact of the matter is that this act is entirely unnecessary for even what it espouses to do, and that is to control the water of the internal lakes, those lakes basically north and east of the Great Lakes which drain into the Great Lakes. It has long been recognized that the province already has within its powers the jurisdiction to control those particular waters.

The International Joint Commission, as we know, makes rules as to whether or not water can be diverted out of the Great Lakes. This, of course, is a joint body between the United States and Canada. I thought I would draw to the attention of the Legislature that the boundaries along the common border with the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River cover a full 1,300 miles. With that particular common boundary there can be in effect no control over the passage of water over that very long boundary, other than through the International Joint Commission. Therefore, the bill has nothing to do with the

major fresh-water source of the province of Ontario. It is a joke in that regard.

The last government attempted to approach the usage of the water in the Great Lakes in a reasonable fashion and in consultation with the United States. There is very much a concern by people who are knowledgeable on this topic, and this bill certainly indicates that the government does not have much knowledge about what is going on. In fact, there is a very, very deep concern by people that, if current practices continue with regard to the removal of water from the Great Lakes, which is consumed along both sides of the border, then as early as the year 2035 there could be serious problems with the levels within those lakes.

Our government, when we were in power, tried, and I must say successfully, to reach agreement with the states that border on the Great Lakes. I might add that those particular states are in tune with the same kind of thinking we were espousing at that time, that there should not be diversion from those lakes. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), when he was the Minister of Natural Resources, was saying as early as 1983 and 1984 that this could be a significant issue.

We have heard a lot of rhetoric from the government in setting up these phantom issues and then coming to the rescue with a junk piece of legislation like we have before us.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Now, Norman.

Mr. Sterling: Well, there is no other kind of description that you can give to something like this.

This and other attempts by this government to set up these phantoms have been recognized by both the intellectual community and the financial community as nothing but phantom bills to fight the federal government here in the provincial Legislature.

I guess if we were reasonable and logical in this Legislature, what we should probably do, by the government's legislative program, is adjourn the Legislature until November 22, because until that time all we will be doing here is having phoney legislation put forward by the Liberal government so it can save us from all the ills of the free trade agreement. Those phoney pieces of legislation will never be heard from again after November 21.

This bill, the embarrassment of the government as shown by the amendments put forward today by the minister, was probably put together hastily in the back rooms of some Liberal campaign office. That is the only explanation we

can come to with regard to how sloppily it was put together. It was obvious to our critic, the member for Cochrane South, two minutes after the minister announced it in the Legislature that what he had ineptly done was set up a bill to sell water to the United States when he felt like it. That is how inept they were. The only conclusion we could come to here was that it was done in the campaign room of some federal Liberal candidate over beer and pizza after they had been out canvassing.

Hon. Mr. Conway: We don't drink.

Mr. Sterling: I would hate to admit they did it when they were sober, I say to the government House leader.

The Great Lakes are extremely important to us. The—

Mr. Matrondola: He's running out of water.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: He's running out of gas.

Mr. Sterling: I am running out of words, but I will probably have a few more to gather over the weekend, because I am really just warming up to the topic.

I want to say that the bill can be interpreted by some of our friends to the south. In various states, different pieces of legislation of a similar vein and nature to the minister's have been brought forward by state legislators. Fortunately, those governments have not carried them through, because they felt that by carrying them through and pretending to save their state from our stealing all of their water, they would create bad relations.

That is what we have here. We have a phantom bill, a phoney bill which does nothing but aggravate relations between the Ontario and the United States of America. What is going to happen? This can do nothing but harm future negotiations when we are talking about the use of the water in the Great Lakes basin area. If the minister had jurisdiction over the Great Lakes basin, he could perhaps talk in some intelligent way about the use of water which is used by 90 per cent of the people of Ontario. This is phoney. To point out how phoney it is, I will carry on when this debate resumes.

On motion by Mr. Sterling, the debate was adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am still trying to figure out if he is for or against this amendment. Anyway, stay tuned for next week.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to tell my friend the

member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) and our colleagues that the business of the House for the following week is as follows.

On Monday, November 14, we will consider the estimates of the Ministry of Health in the committee of supply.

On Tuesday, November 15, and Wednesday, November 16, we will deal with second reading of Bill 66, An Act respecting Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations; Bill 139, An Act to amend the Grain Elevator Storage Act; Bill 140, An Act to revise the Farm Products Containers Act—who says I do not listen to my friend from Haldimand, the member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller)?—Bill 78, An Act respecting the Sale of Farm Implements; Bill 83, An Act respecting the Protection of Farm Practices; and Bill 160—

Mr. Villeneuve: Finally. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) told him to get off his seat.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Norfolk has been impressing this upon me and I am accommodating him and all the farm members.

We will also deal with Bill 160, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, and we will continue the adjourned debate of Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

On Thursday, November 17, in the morning we will consider the private members' business standing in the names of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) and the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson). In the afternoon, we will continue with the estimates of the Ministry of Health in committee of supply.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McQuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Mclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
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 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
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 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
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 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
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 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
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 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
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 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, November 14, 1988



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, November 14, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PAROLE SUPERVISION

Mr. Farnan: I wish to read into the record my grave concern that the changes to parole supervision which the ministry has implemented may have lowered the overall level of services for parolees. As a result of these changes, parolees under high-level supervision are now reclassified to medium-level supervision sooner, and those in this same class of parolees need report only once a month to their officers instead of twice, provided they have participated in a self-help program of some sort.

In short, it appears that parolees who should be seeking counselling from various agencies as a requirement of their conditional release are being induced into doing so with the offer of less supervision. I am certainly concerned that while case loads are being reduced, the time spent with each parolee is also being reduced, thereby nullifying the positive effect of expanding parole services and reducing case loads.

The Ministry of Correctional Services must realize that a shortcut of this nature is in fact not what the public wants. The public wants greater protection and it does not want less supervision, it wants more supervision.

RECYCLING WEEK

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Today, November 14, marks the first day of Recycling Week, which has been designated this year as the week of November 14 to 20. Recycling as a waste management tool has become an important public issue as Ontario municipalities face the growing problem of what to do with the millions of tons of household solid waste we all produce.

On Thursday, November 3, a special event was held at Queen's Park to celebrate the delivery of the one-millionth blue box in Ontario.

On the following day in my riding of Wellington, the Centre Wellington Solid Waste Management Committee held its ceremony to launch its recycling program on behalf of the northern municipalities of Wellington. The

chairman of the Wellington recycling group, George Pinkney, was very pleased to welcome these 11 municipalities into the program, accounting for 20 out of the 21 municipalities in the county. At this ceremony, Helen Dick from Palmerston was presented with a blue box representing 10,000 blue boxes now in use in Wellington.

Don Taylor, the co-ordinator of the Wellington waste recycling program, requested that I indicate to this Legislature Wellington county's total commitment to this excellent program by presenting you, Mr. Speaker, with this blue box bearing the number 10,000. Perhaps it can be used in the government members' lobby.

DRUG AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. LeBourdais: I am pleased to rise today to lend my support to Drug Awareness Week in Ontario. Drug Awareness Week was initiated some 15 years ago and this year more than 30 local communities are planning events to educate their own communities on the hazards of drug abuse.

In my own constituency of Etobicoke West, I will be visiting local schools to promote the "Try HUGS, not drugs" program to elementary school students. In addition, I will be participating in a parent-teachers' town hall meeting and will be devoting my cable television program, as well as my household, solely to the issue of addictive substances.

It is important that our young people learn and understand the dangers that drugs present physically, psychologically and socially, in a manner that is meaningful to them. In Etobicoke, the board of education has already implemented an ongoing program to inform its students about the tragic manner in which drugs can take over their lives.

I am particularly pleased as well that by the fall of 1989, schools throughout Ontario will be required to implement drug education programs. We need to provide encouragement and alternatives to help develop practical methods for building self-confidence and dealing with pressure.

I hope all members of this House will wear their "Try HUGS, not drugs" buttons in support of Drug Awareness Week.

NUCLEAR ARMS FREE ZONE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Two years ago, we passed, as a Legislature, a motion to make Ontario a nuclear weapons free zone. In the two years that have passed, this government has done absolutely nothing either to make a statement that this is government policy or to take initiatives which would put some meaning to the resolution that was passed.

I raised it with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on several occasions. He said he did not know what could be done; did I have any ideas? I came through with two private member's bills to try to give some effect to the resolution. He said that neither of these was within our jurisdiction, did not give any ideas for amendment on how they could be brought within our mandate and offered no further solutions.

On the anniversary last year, I asked him to allow us to establish an all-party committee to follow this up further. After several months of trying to get a meeting with the House leader, we then discovered that in fact he is concerned about the jurisdictional questions. I have most recently put a suggestion through the House leader that we get some legal opinions as to what our jurisdictional restrictions are and then, based on that information, proceed to take action.

More and more, I am beginning to believe this government did not believe in that resolution and has no intention of following up on it, and it is a great disappointment to me and all those other people in this House who thought that it was serious.

DRUG ABUSE

Mr. Harris: Among the most insidious and devastating social problems of our time is drug abuse. This problem begins unexpectedly, with the often subtle influences of peer pressure, exerted innocently at times for experimentation or recreational purposes or more overtly on other occasions in what amounts to a desperate plea for societal attention and acceptance.

The impact of drug abuse is not merely reflected in numbers and statistics. Younger people are experimenting sooner, as early as age nine, with illegal drugs. The impact of this growing problem is felt in the everyday lives of people whose addicted spouses physically abuse them or their children, of high school students who initially use alcohol to achieve recognition, of professionals who indulge to relieve career-related stress, of street kids who struggle to survive and who search for self-discovery in an increasingly valueless society.

No one is untouched by this serious problem; it affects us all. During this week dedicated to drug awareness, my party would like to applaud the government's effort to increase awareness, because we all know that as a society, once we tolerate we eventually accept and finally embrace a harmful practice with implications that cannot easily be erased.

As a party, we strongly urge this government to take action to dedicate the funds available to improving existing drug abuse programs and developing a co-ordinated province-wide program. We support every effort to continue the fight to save thousands of Ontarians from the grip of substance addiction.

THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN

Mr. Smith: I would like to read a passage written by a 17-year-old constituent of mine, Diana Douglas, who has shown her creativity and perception in the following tale, *The Forgotten Garden*.

"Once upon a time there were two kingdoms. One was named the Beautiful Garden due to its beautiful flowers, trees, fruits and vegetables. The second kingdom was named the Dark Forest, for it was dreary and lacked natural beauty, for it had been stripped by the king.

"One day, the king of the Beautiful Garden disappeared. The king of the Dark Forest became excited and dreamed of ruling both kingdoms. The animals of the Beautiful Garden disliked this king because he was mean and wanted to send the animals to war.

"Luckily, three animals of the Beautiful Garden wished to become the new king of the garden, so they all made promises to the other animals of the garden.

"The frog said he would fight the animals of the Dark Forest. The fox said he would protect the animals and keep them safe and happy. The weasel said he would make all the animals rich.

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"Meanwhile, the king of the Dark Forest offered the weasel all the gold he wanted if the weasel would win the kingdom and turn it over to the king of the Dark Forest.

"The day came for the animals to decide who their new king would be. They thought the frog was far too radical; the fox had nothing exciting to offer. So they selected the weasel who, in turn, gave the Beautiful Garden to the king of the Dark Forest for his gold.

"The aftermath was tragic. The animals of the Dark Forest moved into the Beautiful Garden and stripped it of its beauty. The Beautiful Garden

was taken over by the Dark Forest and all the animals went to war with each other until there was nothing left.

"The moral of this passage is: Look beyond the obvious. Simple greed ensures your demise."

The characters of this tale are—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

Mr. Smith: —Forgotten Garden, Canada; Dark Forest, United States; weasel, Mulroney; fox, Turner; and frog, Broadbent.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you could table the balance.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Reville: The lockout of Ontario Public Service Employees Union workers at Canadian Medical Laboratories continues to provide ever more bizarre consequences. This most recent set of bizarre consequences results from the fact that during the lockouts specimens are being taken to the company's headquarters at 1644 Aimco Boulevard, Mississauga. The specimens come from doctors' offices and from specimen collection centres. The specimens are travelling by cab in unsealed bags, which creates (1) a problem for privacy of patient information and (2) a health and safety risk to the driver and other occupants of cabs.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Reville: The ministry better get cracking—

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for members' statements.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Just before I call the next order of business, I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to recognize in the Speaker's gallery some members from the Legislative Assembly of Alberta: the Honourable James Horsman, Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs; Stan Schumacher, MLA for Drumheller, and Bill Payne, MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek. I am sure things will be orderly for our visitors today.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Although we watch with grave anticipation the progress of research into acquired immune deficiency syndrome here and around the world, unfortunately an effective vaccine will not be available in the foreseeable

future. Effective education is our primary tool in limiting the spread of the virus that causes AIDS.

Our two-year, \$7-million campaign to increase public awareness and provide public information was launched last spring. This clearly shows my ministry's recognition of the vital role education must play if we are to control this epidemic. Since March 22 of this year, we have been informing the people of Ontario in eight languages about the facts on AIDS, how to avoid risky behaviour and where to turn for more detailed information.

Our AIDS public education campaign is being evaluated on an ongoing basis. These evaluations have shown the campaign has been well received by the Ontario public and has been effective in communicating its message. I recognize, however, that some groups have special needs. Community-based organizations know best how to reach these groups, and by entering into a partnership with them we can help them to be successful in fighting AIDS.

For this fiscal year an additional \$750,000 has been allocated for health units and community group AIDS programs. I am announcing today that 10 new programs proposed by community-based AIDS groups have been approved for ministry support and funding of \$519,706. Some of these programs will give AIDS information and education to hard-to-reach groups, while others will provide much-needed support for people with human immunodeficiency virus infection as well as their families and friends.

One of the most difficult groups to reach is injection drug users. While we must provide adequate treatment to enable them to overcome their addiction, it is also critical that we find ways to inform them of the enormous risks of sharing needles used to inject drugs.

In this regard, the Toronto Injection Drug Use Network and the Addiction Research Foundation have received a grant to train staff of health and social service agencies on how to prevent transmission of HIV infection among their clients who inject drugs. First, the specific needs of various agencies and community groups that deal with injection drug users in Metropolitan Toronto will be identified. Then education programs tailored to the agency's needs will be developed.

Forums will also be held to help agencies, with special emphasis on those that deal with youth, to develop effective programs of prevention linked to treatment. In addition, Stonehenge Therapeutic Community in Guelph will provide acquired immune deficiency syndrome workshops for

service providers and clients of addiction programs in southwestern Ontario.

An education program for the Chinese and Portuguese communities of Toronto will be one of the services offered by St. Stephen's Community House to reach cultural minorities with information and counselling about AIDS. Ojibway Tribal Family Services of Kenora will also receive funding to co-ordinate a three-day AIDS conference on needs and education strategies for native communities.

In the area of support, the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation uses volunteers to provide support and assistance to people with AIDS and HIV infection.

Three community AIDS committees, in Sudbury, Cambridge and Guelph, will use their newly approved ministry financial support to continue their important work in education, prevention, counselling and support. A fourth community group, the AIDS Committee of Toronto, will have its funding increased to handle rising costs in the city that still accounts for over 50 per cent of Ontario's AIDS cases.

Other grants will provide education and counselling to young prostitutes by the market outreach program of the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa and a peer counselling and AIDS education outreach program for Toronto prostitutes by Maggie's.

Last November I announced \$7.1 million in funding for 53 programs in health units and community groups to provide AIDS information, education and support over two years. The 10 programs I am announcing today form part of our overall co-ordinated plan to provide all Ontarians with the information they need on the subject of AIDS.

RESPONSES

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Mr. Reville: We, of course, welcome the announcement of additional funding to health unit and community group acquired immune deficiency syndrome programs. However, we must remind the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) that there are three basic issues with respect to AIDS. One is the question of prevention; the other is the question of care for those people who suffer; and the third, of course, is the question of a cure. While the government may not be doing too badly in terms of the prevention side, it has not taken any leadership at all in terms of care and cure.

The other issue that I think has to be pointed out, and has to be pointed out very strongly, is that it is not at all sufficient for the minister to say that we have to find ways to inform intravenous drug users of the enormous risks of sharing needles to inject drugs. The minister should know by now that this issue has to be tackled head-on and that people do not need to be told it is dangerous to share needles. The sharing of needles has gone on for a long time in the face of the threat of hepatitis, which has been well known and which continues to be transmitted by people who share needles. Now, of course, AIDS is another disease that can be transmitted in this way.

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The minister is going to have to do better than this. She is going to have to seize the nettle and talk about needle exchange programs and needle cleaning programs, which she has failed to do in this regard. I can tell the members that when the three-day AIDS conference on needs and education strategies for native communities is held, what the native communities are going to tell the minister, if the minister does not know—and she should know—is that information needs to be made available in two of the first Canadian languages, Cree and Ojibway. My friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) will tell members that is what his constituents tell him.

I think there are other issues that have not been addressed that are being addressed by the New Democratic Party on the federal scene, the only party that has a policy to deal with AIDS. Those are questions to do with mandatory testing, the use of placebos in clinical trials, and the availability of drugs that have proved effective in other jurisdictions but are not available here, and on which the Canadian authorities are absolutely dragging their feet.

In the United States, AIDS has become a manageable chronic illness, and that is not the case in Ontario. In fact, we need to see leadership from this government to make sure that becomes the case here.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to emphasize to the minister the remarks made by my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), and to say to the minister that if she looks hard at the statistics for Ontario, and indeed for North America, she will find that the fastest-growing spread is among drug users. I find it ironic that on the day the Liberal members and many others are wearing the "Take HUGS, not drugs" buttons—she is wearing one—she would not have addressed more aggressively and effectively this

question of the sharing of needles and what the most effective program is to deal with that.

It is our view in our party that the only way for this province to go is to assure all people in this province who use needles, for whatever reason, that they will be covered by the Ontario health insurance plan, so that we do not have a fight between something being done to stop the spread of AIDS and those who are diabetic saying, "The government hasn't done anything for us." That is a quite unnecessary conflict the government can resolve by saying that needles are an assistive device that will be paid for completely and entirely by OHIP and will be covered entirely by our medical insurance scheme in this province, and that the province will deal far more aggressively with this question of the sharing of needles than it has dealt with it so far.

If this is indeed, as all the statistics indicate, the one area where there is a major potential for growth—the evidence suggests that the spread in the heterosexual community, for example, is almost entirely the product of its association with the use of dirty needles in drugs—I say to the minister that she has an obligation to seize this question head-on and to deal with it more directly than she has so far.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to respond on behalf of my colleagues to the minister's announcement in the House this afternoon. I would like to point out and reiterate, actually, some of the comments made by the official opposition. This is not a new announcement, but rather an announcement of programs of \$7.1 million that were announced last November. I presume the 10 programs the minister is announcing today, as she says in her statement, form part of this overall co-ordinated plan.

As the leader of the official opposition has quite rightly pointed out, we still have received no response to suggestions for a needle exchange program in Ontario. The facts he states are quite accurate with respect to the spread of AIDS in the heterosexual community. We pointed out several weeks ago—I believe about two weeks ago in the Legislature during question period—that in addition, there are an estimated 17,000 secondary school students in the province of Ontario alone who will use needles for one purpose or another during the course of the next year. Those are the figures of the Addiction Research Foundation, the very foundation that is mentioned in the minister's report.

I quite concur with the statements of the leader of the official opposition with respect to diabetics in this province. I think the time has long since

passed when OHIP should cover the provision of the needles that are very necessary to the very survival of diabetic patients in Ontario.

Mr. Cousens: There cannot be anyone, in this House at least and increasingly across the province, who is not aware and concerned about the needs of the victims of AIDS. The other day, I met my first constituent who came to me with a problem as a victim of the disease. Indeed, it was a startling discussion I had about the problems he has had, facing up to them by himself, then exclusion from many friends and family, and then after that first initial reaction, the closing in of the group to give him the kind of support he needs.

I am convinced we have words to describe lines of action, but as I hear the honourable member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) talk, we continue to be worried that the discussions by the minister really are not leading to a long-term solution of this problem.

I would like to ask the minister, when she is looking at the needs of AIDS victims, to look as well at the needs of all those other people who have palliative care needs. On the one hand, I respect the needs of AIDS and how we as a society have to address it, and yet this very ministry has removed funding and not approved necessary funding to allow palliative care programs to proceed and continue, and I think that is really a shame.

I know that in our own community we are doing a very creditable job in forming hospices, but this government has been asked for support and for help and has turned us down. I think we need to have an integrated approach to palliative care, and that is something that has not been coming from the ministry or the government. It is high time that we, as a society, began not only to look at one group but to look at the whole of society as a group in itself that requires this kind of attention.

It is not happening with this government. What we see here is one isolated area in which it is giving words. Let's have a more all-encompassing approach to the needs of people who are really in need, and to palliative care specifically.

Mr. Pollock: The member for Parry Sound and the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) have covered the AIDS situation fairly well. I would just like to comment that there is a faint glimmer of hope for the Minister of Health because I understand that one of our colleagues, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams), had to undergo an emergency operation for appendi-

citis on Saturday, and I was glad he was not put on a waiting list.

[Later]

Mr. Pollock: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Chairman: I was at an event on Saturday in Lakefield and it was announced there that the member for Peterborough, who had been invited to be at that particular event, had suffered an appendicitis attack and underwent an operation. I went with that information. Unfortunately, or fortunately, whatever way you want to look at it, I checked it out a little more thoroughly this afternoon and found out that he certainly was in the hospital, but did not have an operation for appendicitis. It was a gall bladder attack. I made the statement that he had an appendicitis operation and I want to withdraw that and set the record straight.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. I am sure we shall all wish him well, no matter what he has.

[Later]

Mr. Adams: Mr. Chairman, I have a point of order: I did not want to interrupt the member for Parry Sound, but I am concerned by the fact that I understand the member for Hastings-Peterborough has announced twice today—and in fact, it is recorded in Hansard—the fact that I am ill and that I am in hospital. I am grateful to the member for Hastings-Peterborough for his concern for my health, but as members can see, thanks to our fine health system, I am here in excellent condition.

As two ailments were mentioned in the record, I would like to say that I did have a problem with a kidney stone on Saturday and it was an emergency situation. I had the choice of two emergency hospitals, and my experience at the one that I chose was excellent. The staff, the nurses and the doctors all treated me extremely well and, as members can see, I am here in the most excellent of health.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Just before I hit the pillow on Friday night, I happened to watch the news, the CFTO broadcast, that contained excerpts from the debate the minister had with Professor Crispo at the Burns Fry luncheon. I heard with my own ears, and I was really rather astonished—I double-checked the record and I find that I am correct—to find that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology said that

Canada's social programs would not be affected by the free trade agreement.

I wonder if the minister would explain that statement that I heard very clearly, and others heard as well and noticed on the CFTO broadcast on Friday night.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am delighted to respond to the Leader of the Opposition. I would be happy to send him a tape of the total debate. In the question-and-answer period, I was asked if there was anything in the agreement that specifically refers to social programs, and I said no. At that point, everybody applauded and they thought that was great. I then went on to say "but" and explained where the pressures would come from, that with harmonization and with the competitive situation that was going to come, there would be problems.

If the member had wanted to be fair, had looked at the total context and had not taken it out of context, I think he would have seen that was exactly what I had said, and that is exactly the position most people have taken.

1400

Mr. B. Rae: I heard the minister's comment. I am quoting back to him what he said. He said, "The social policy is not affected by the free trade agreement." That is the comment he made. He then goes on in his explanation to say that is not what he meant to say, or that he meant to say something in addition to that.

I wonder if the minister can tell us if it is his view that social policy is not affected by this agreement, is not affected directly by the agreement and is in fact not mentioned in the agreement. If that is the position he is now taking, why would the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) have presented a bill dealing with the question of independent health facilities in which she went out of her way to say that one of the reasons Ontario was bringing in this legislation was specifically to deal with those sections in the free trade agreement that relate to the service sector and that relate very specifically to the rights of management firms in the service sector dealing with health care and with blood banks to receive national treatment in this province?

If, in fact, social services are not mentioned in the agreement, why would the Minister of Health have brought forward a bill, have insisted that we debate it in the House and have said in her opening statement that the reason she was bringing it forward was that it is in the free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: One of the problems I have with the Leader of the Opposition is exactly

the problem I had with Professor Crispo. When I answered that question in its entirety, he was very critical of the fact that those people who are opposing free trade were concerned about what was not in the agreement. We have exactly the same position. When you look at the agreement, I defy the member to tell me where there is a reference in the agreement to the health care system of Canada.

What he is saying, I am sure, is that under a provision it can be interpreted, and we take that interpretation. We want to make sure we protect our position. We are protecting our position in case somebody wants to take that interpretation; we want to protect ourselves. We have done that. The member opposite has debated the issue of water. We have said, "If they take that interpretation on water, we want to protect ourselves." We want to do the same thing with power.

Now, if the member asks me directly whether there is something in that agreement that specifically says, "We are going to affect your social services," I would have to say to him that there is not a direct reference; there could be that interpretation. We want to protect ourselves against that interpretation.

Mr. B. Rae: This government had three pillars: It had the power bill, which they pulled. Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: They did. Yes, they pulled it. They had the water bill, which provided for the sale of water, and now we have the bill on health facilities, which the minister is saying relates to simply a matter of interpretation.

The minister asked me what section of the free trade agreement relates directly to social services. I will tell him: that section of the free trade agreement, the entire chapter on services, which lists those services in the health care field, which provides for national treatment for those services involving the management of hospitals, the management of health care facilities. The minister asks me what direct references there are in the free trade agreement. That is the direct reference, and I am absolutely astonished that at this stage of the debate on free trade, we would still have a Liberal minister in this province and, indeed, in this country who says that social policy is not directly referred to in the free trade agreement, when it is directly referred to. I am astonished the minister would be saying in this day and age that this is not directly referred to.

Mr. Speaker: Can I have a question?

Mr. B. Rae: Can the minister explain why he would not have understood the clear implications

of that section of the agreement dealing with services in terms of the free trade agreement and in terms of the future of our social services?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I think the member should get his act together and know where it is we are.

Mr. B. Rae: Get our act together.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Yes. His former leader, Mr. Lewis, says the Liberal Party is the best party to defend this particular issue. We have been—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That was a Toronto Star headline. He didn't say that at all. I was there. That's what the Toronto Star said. He never said that.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Scarborough West, order. Interjections are out of order, and particularly from members not in their own seats.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We have been constant in our opposition to this agreement. We are constant in our concern that not right now, but in the definition of what is going to be and what constitutes a subsidy and what constitutes those areas where we are providing unfair competition, pressures can be brought to bear for us to take a look at all of our social services. We are very concerned about that. We have said that from day one. That is our position. It has not changed. I have no problem with it at all.

Mr. B. Rae: I did have a question for the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston). My understanding was that he was here, but I am happy to wait for him to come. My understanding is that he is coming shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to stand down your question?

Mr. B. Rae: Yes, please.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. It pertains to the Act to provide for the Regulation of Rents charged for Rental Units in Residential Complexes, better known as the famous Residential Rent Regulation Act, which received royal assent in December 1986. Can the minister tell us why, after two years, sections 43, 91, 93, 117 and parts of section 83 have still not been proclaimed?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: As members know, the ministry has been faced with substantial work to deal with all the applications that have come forward under the Residential Rent Regulation Act. Our priority is resolving those as quickly as

possible by using considerable resources of people and computer time and effort.

We have established the priority that this is the most important thing we can do. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that as a result of that work, our backlog has indeed dropped from 26,000 to 21,000. That is our first priority. That is the most important thing for us to do. We will look at the other sections of the act and when we will be proclaiming them after we have met our first priority, which is to reduce that backlog.

Mr. Harris: The minister mentions the considerable resources. Many are wondering whether those resources are being wasted. Let me ask the minister this: According to the officials of her ministry, section 83—one I am probably more interested in than the others, but I am interested in them all—requires the minister to report the decision of any application not less than 15 days before the date of the first rent increase applied for.

The reason it cannot be put into effect, according to her officials, is precisely because of the overwhelming size of the backlog of applications. That was—as of today, 21,000—overwhelming; not good news. This is the same backlog which last week the minister claimed was being so effectively reduced and today claims is being effectively reduced.

I ask the minister, can she give us any indication of how many more millions or billions it will take, or of a time frame as to when she might be able to implement section 83?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am glad to have that example brought forward in the House. What I said last week, and what I am prepared to say again this week, is that we have turned the corner on dealing with the backlog. I am committed to making sure we continue to work actively and quickly in that direction. We will consider proclaiming other sections of the act when we have done more to reduce the backlog we currently have. That is the commitment we have made to the people of the province, that is where we are putting our resources in rent review and that is what we will continue to do.

Mr. Harris: I wonder if the minister could tell this House if she could name one person, landlord or tenant, anywhere in the province other than herself and her own ministry mandarins who think this legislation is working.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The vast majority of tenants in this province are paying rent increases at or near the guidelines.

Mr. Harris: Can you name one?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I cannot name a single name because there are so many people, the vast majority of tenants in the province. For the rest of the people in this province—

An hon. member: She can name me. I like it. I am for it.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: —there are some people here—what is really important is that no rent increases be granted that are unjustified. That is the reason for the law.

The member opposite had the privilege, when he was in this House a number of years ago, of voting for that law, a privilege I did not share. For that reason, we are pleased that the vast majority of tenants are paying increases at or near or below the guideline. For them, the law is working.

1410

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Markham.

Mr. Cousens: I am looking for the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton), who is supposed to be here. Could I stand the question down until he comes?

Mr. Speaker: Your request is to stand it down. Is that agreed?

Agreed to.

LAKEFILL

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. I want to put to the minister three, in my opinion, irreconcilable facts, and let's hear his reconciliation of them.

The first is that the minister has often told us of his support for the Great Lakes water quality agreement, which calls for the virtual elimination of toxic substances from the Great Lakes. There have been innumerable studies which have shown that lakefilling contributes to toxic substances entering Lake Ontario. Now we know that this minister and his ministry are in the process of relinquishing responsibility for the administration of lakefilling on Metro's waterfronts and allowing the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to be both the proponent and the regulator of lakefilling projects. How can the minister reconcile these actions?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Of course, all of these matters must have a very thorough environmental review, as the member would be aware. I know of her genuine concern, particularly as it relates to her own riding, but I know she had a special interest when she was a municipal

representative and further as a provincial representative in that area.

I can inform the member that our ministry would be very deeply involved in terms of the review of any projects that would be forthcoming that would involve lakefilling activities. There have been a number of organizations and so on over the years that have wanted to participate in this particular activity. We feel that, as the Ministry of the Environment, we should comment upon and review any of those suggestions as they come forward.

We would be working in conjunction with the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in any of the activities that it would be involved in, because of course, as the member knows, our ministry has a very distinct interest in the whole issue of lakefilling, not only in terms of the material that is placed there but, as the member has mentioned on many occasions, also in terms of the effect that the lakefilling might have on the water patterns.

Mrs. Grier: I certainly welcome the minister's interest in future lakefilling projects. My question was more related to what is happening now with the lakefill quality assurance program and the contaminated fill that is being dumped daily into existing projects.

I know the minister will have received a letter that was signed by representatives of Pollution Probe, the Toronto Field Naturalists, Friends of the Spit and the Canadian Environmental Law Association which said how concerned they were by the shift of responsibility for lakefilling to the MTRCA. They said: "MTRCA have no legal mandate to control pollution, no enforcement powers, no laboratory facilities. It is a waste of public funds to undertake to establish a duplicate agency to carry out your mandate of pollution control when you already have the resources to tackle the problems."

Why is the minister allowing the lakefill quality assurance program to be regulated by the biggest lakefiller of them all, the MTRCA?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think the suggestion the member has that the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority would not have an interest in the quality of lakefill or its impact on the lakeshore and Lake Ontario would not be an accurate projection. They certainly have some interest in that.

The member is being prompted by the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) at the present time, but I will try to answer her question nevertheless.

As the member would know from her extensive discussions about this, the MTRCA pro-

posal is in fact an interim program. The member knows that on the whole aspect of provincial landfilling as it relates to the lakes and as we refer to it as lakefilling, there is comprehensive and very detailed study taking place at the present time and there are going to be proposed guidelines going out in the next few months. I think she would expect those proposed guidelines.

As the member knows, this is a matter that affects not only Metropolitan Toronto but many places in Ontario. We have said that as an interim measure we are working with the conservation authority. In the long run, I think the member will be very pleased with the kind of discussions we have and the final proposal that comes forward to deal with this very difficult problem.

COURT RULING

Mr. Sterling: In the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I will ask the Deputy Premier my question.

People in Ottawa-Carleton are outraged by a local district court judge's ruling last week, wherein a particular accused had been so brazen as to write to three Ottawa Rough Rider cheerleaders that he intended to rape them and this district court judge found that this was not an offence under the Criminal Code and that the Criminal Code, which states that "everyone who, in committing a sexual assault, threatens to cause bodily harm to a person" was not applicable in this case.

Our party vehemently disagrees with this particular interpretation, or second, we disagree with the law if such a loophole exists.

Will the Deputy Premier, in his role as Deputy Premier and representing the government, press upon the Attorney General to appeal this case immediately?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I know the honourable member will understand when I say only that I will be glad to bring his views to the attention of the Attorney General on his return.

Mr. Sterling: That is interesting, but the problem here is that we do not have the Attorney General with us, nor has he left a notice with the government as to his intentions on this very serious matter.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Sterling: It is extremely important to women in the province, because most women consider any kind of interpretation of a sexual offence or rape as in itself threatening bodily harm, either psychologically or physically.

Therefore, I would urge the Deputy Premier to make a commitment as early as possible on behalf of this government to appeal this case not only on the merits of the case but in order to clarify the law so the law can be changed if need be.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have nothing further to say on that.

STEEL INDUSTRY

Ms. Collins: My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I have in my possession a copy of a letter from Vice-President George Bush to Senator John Heinz dated November 4, 1988, in which the President-elect commits his administration to extending the voluntary restraint agreement curbing steel imports into the United States beyond its September 1989 expiry date.

As the minister is aware, the US industry is currently lobbying for the inclusion of Canadian steel products under the terms of this agreement, a move that could have a highly negative impact on Canadian steel exports. Could the minister please advise this House whether the Mulroney trade deal would secure access to US markets for Canadian steel products in the face of this type of protectionist action?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for the question. Unfortunately, it is a subject that really cannot be dealt with too readily in the short period of time we have, but I will try to give it to her as briefly as I can.

At the present, Canada is not subject to VRA, which is a voluntary restraint agreement. They have a gentleman's agreement that allows penetration of the US market to about 3.5 per cent. The industry is very happy with that and thinks that if the free trade agreement goes through, it will be able to maintain that.

The letter of President-elect George Bush to John Heinz states that he is committed to getting all of the steel trading partners of the United States under the VRA. Under that basis, that number could be lower.

1420

There is also a standstill provision in the free trade agreement that says the parties will not do anything contrary to the intent of the agreement. Notwithstanding that, Bethlehem Steel petitioned the Department of Commerce in the United States and cited many programs that this government and the federal government have in place for regional development as examples of unfair subsidization. The Department of Commerce has agreed to take up their petition.

Obviously, the standstill provision is not affecting it, and the free trade agreement will not save the industry.

Ms. Collins: Further on the case of the antidumping, countervailing petition against Algoma Steel and the Sydney Steel Corp., the charge is now before the US Department of Commerce for a ruling. Would the minister please advise this House regarding the broader implications of this case, particularly with respect to the alleged subsidies cited in the petition?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Some of the things that have been cited have been Department of Regional Industrial Expansion programs, the defence industry productivity program and various other programs that are in place to help areas like Sydney, Nova Scotia. The implication is that if the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission find that these are, in effect, unfair subsidies, it is going to have a reverberation through the width and breadth of this country.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Before I recognize the next member for a question, I know all members would want to join me in welcoming Bill Davis, a former member of the House, in the lower gallery.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question to the Minister of Transportation. It concerns the letter the minister wrote to the Toronto Transit Commission on October 24 in which he was proposing an extension to the Spadina subway line from Wilson Avenue to Sheppard Avenue. The minister stated that this letter was, I quote, "simply a follow-through from our announcement last May that we are going to get on with the transportation needs and demands across the greater Metro Toronto area in the four regions that comprise that area."

The minister's May announcement deals with a review of a report entitled Network 2011, a report which targets a Sheppard subway line between Yonge Street and Victoria Park Avenue as its first priority—I repeat, as its first priority. How can the minister justify an extension of the Spadina line to Sheppard Avenue as an "immediate rapid transit project" when it is so clearly spelled out as the fourth stage of development in the Network 2011 report?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member is again incorrect when he says it is our priority in the

statement he just read. Certainly if the member had followed through and was as well versed on the subject of transportation in Metro as he alludes, he would know that the Spadina line affords that connection to Sheppard as well as many other viable options in providing transit to Metro in the three surrounding regions.

Mr. Cousens: The minister should remember the statement made by the member for Oriole (Mrs. Caplan) on May 12, 1987, when she stated:

"Rated number one priority for Metropolitan Toronto, Sheppard Avenue is one of the most heavily travelled routes in Metro and the province. Future development studies indicate that this rapid transit need will only become more urgent in the future. Four consecutive reports since 1980 have identified Sheppard as its top priority, and Metro council, in Project 2011, has already approved its share of funding for the line's construction and operation. The project, however, is on hold pending provincial funding."

Our requests for a commitment to the Sheppard line have been largely ignored by the minister. Will the minister at least have the decency to respond to his colleague's year-and-a-half-old request to put a priority on the Sheppard line?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I will not touch the subject of decency. This member always acts with decency. However, the member should be aware, as he continues to quote from the letter, that the letter included the funding between the TTC and ourselves and Metro to provide for the protection of the entire corridor, which had not been done before. In fact, it goes for the full length, not just from Yonge Street to Victoria Park Avenue but to the entire easterly distance with respect to Scarborough. That had not been done before. I think the member is not fully aware of just what that protection means to the eventual development of the Sheppard subway.

Mr. Cousens: The minister has not given the Sheppard subway the level of urgency it should have. Approving another little strand north to extend Spadina a little farther to Sheppard is not the priority it was stated to be in the Network 2011 report. What he is doing is giving it a level of importance it does not begin to have when you start looking at the need for Metropolitan Toronto to have a solution to transit needs.

I would like to ask the minister to rise in this House today and show the leadership he is capable of giving, that we hear he gives behind the scenes in cabinet but do not see in the

House—the man who is concerned about transit. Will the minister today make a solid commitment to the future development of the rapid transit system for greater Metropolitan Toronto and give the go-ahead to the Sheppard subway line linking Yonge Street to Victoria Park Avenue? Do it today.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: How are you going to say no to that, Ed?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: My colleague the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) asked me how I would dare say no to that particular question, and he is probably right. The member should be aware that this government, for the first time in more than 20 years, spent 18 months looking at and examining the needs of Metro and the three expanding regions beyond—more than his government did in the previous 20 years, I should remind him.

The member should be aware of the options that are available to us by extending Spadina and at the same time protecting the very corridor he has expressed concern about. We are working with the TTC, we are working with Metro council and we are working with the other regions to address the needs of the four regions around the city of Toronto with a view not only to building transit systems but to providing commuter service, highways and municipal roads, more so than his government did in 25 years.

PARENTAL LEAVE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Labour and minister responsible for women's issues. I put the question to him in his capacity in both of those portfolios. The government is now in its third Liberal reform term. I ask him, as the Minister of Labour, how it feels to be the minister at a time when our maternity leave is without doubt the worst in the country, when the eligibility qualifying time is 11 weeks longer than that of any other jurisdiction in this nation? When is he going to do something about it after all this time?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It is a very good question that the member for Scarborough West raises. In fact, I do believe the provisions under the Employment Standards Act are inadequate. We are in the midst of a rather comprehensive review of the Employment Standards Act.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) will have his turn.

We are in a rather comprehensive review of the Employment Standards Act, looking at issues

relating not only to maternity leave but, frankly, to paternity leave as well. The member for Scarborough West will know there was a case before the Federal Court of Canada which raised that issue and determined as unconstitutional a provision of the Unemployment Insurance Act dealing with a related item. We are looking at those issues, and our preference right now is to bring forward a more comprehensive package of amendments to the act. Certainly the issue of maternity leave will be addressed when that time comes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am aware that not only is it the matter of the eligibility, in which a person has to have 63 weeks preceding the birth of the child even to be eligible to collect unemployment insurance benefits in this province, but it is also a totally inflexible system unlike those of most of the other provinces, and there are no adoption leave provisions, let alone paternity leave provisions.

My question, which I did not hear an answer to, is: When can we expect those reforms? The Liberals have been in for three years now, yet we have in this case the worst record in the country, as well as having, as a country, the 22nd-worst record out of 23 countries surveyed in western Europe, eastern Europe and North America.

1430

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The statistics I have do not go into the international analysis my friend the member for Scarborough West raised, but there is no doubt that in the area of maternity leave and paternity leave our statute is rather out of date. I think we can all assume that.

He raises the question about when we would be bringing forward amendments. I cannot tell him that right now, because we are in the midst of a fairly comprehensive review. I will just tell him that this does relate as well specifically to the regulatory framework that women in the workplace have. As we look at changes, we have to be sensitive to the fact that women will very soon constitute 50 per cent of the workforce. I think the member knows those statistics. Frankly, when that statute was put into place, the reality was very significantly different.

If the member for Scarborough West has any suggestions as to how we might proceed as we review the Employment Standards Act, I would be perfectly willing to hear from him, and tell him that if his suggestions are constructive, perhaps we can move the agenda along slightly more quickly than currently.

EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Sterling: In the Ottawa-Carleton area the ministry recently cut down the emergency shelter assistance program grant from \$514,000 to \$409,000. Only last Wednesday did the region receive notice that the minister had agreed to take it back up to \$514,000. If it had not come about, places like St. Joseph's Women's Centre for the Psychiatric Disabled would have had to feed the people who come there on a day care program for \$1.80 a day as opposed to \$2.50 a day which they now have to feed them.

The ministry's local office has indicated that ESAP, which has been in place for the last five years, is being tapered down and is likely to cease when the Social Assistance Review Committee report comes into place. What program is the minister planning to replace ESAP once this report is implemented?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member might recall that ESAP was introduced in 1982, I believe, in the midst of a serious recession in Ontario. It was introduced at the request of the churches appealing directly to then-Premier Bill Davis. It was clearly understood that that program was to be in place only during that recessionary period; when the economy picked up again, it would be phased out.

When I was named minister in 1985, those same organizations appealed to me to leave it in for one more year. I agreed to leave it in for one more year, but I indicated at that time that it definitely would be phased out. We were very concerned about having the appearance of a second welfare system, and the churches, quite frankly, were beginning to complain that they were being expected to pick up the slack. I said that was not the intent. We indicated that over the last couple of years.

There have been various services provided in different places in the province, including the one in Ottawa the honourable member spoke to. I should point out to the honourable member that Metropolitan Toronto and Ottawa are the two largest recipients of this service. They get something like 80 or 85 per cent of all the resources available for the entire province.

They were definitely going to be phased out. The honourable member is correct that money has been restored to Ottawa for this year. The Ottawa people have been told that this service is going to be phased out, and it will be part of our response to the Thomson report.

Mr. Sterling: Although this program was originally initiated during the period of recession

for that particular reason, other factors have changed, including the needs of homeless people for housing, as well as the fact of the continuing deinstitutionalization which is taking place in this province. Will the minister assure me today that he will not do away with this program until he has legislated some other program or initiated some policy which will ensure that people like those at St. Joseph's Women's Centre or at Centre 454 in Ottawa will be properly taken care of? Will he assure me that another program will be in place before he cuts that funding off?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would certainly be prepared to assure the member that there will be a service provided for those people who need a service, and I am not in a position at this point in time to define the ones that he particularly mentioned. I am assuming that if it is being provided, there must be a need for it. I am not prepared to commit, however, that it will be provided in the same way that it is at the present time. That is precisely why we indicated that it would be wound down.

For example, we are negotiating with municipal councils in several communities across the province, particularly in the Metro Toronto and Ottawa areas, to fold into the programs we already have for hostel services those that would normally be part of the ESAP services. That is an example where the service continues to be provided but within the basis of an existing program rather than standing alone in this particular way. So, in terms of service being provided to people in need in this province, the answer is yes.

PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. B. Rae: I had a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) and he does not appear to be coming. In his absence, I would address my question to the former minister and my dear friend the Deputy Premier.

I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us what the intentions of the government are with respect to pension reform. He will recall that in June 1987 we passed the legislation dealing with the question of indexation. We have now been waiting well over a year and a half for the next shoe to drop and the government to tell us exactly what form this indexing is going to take. There are many workers who have been waiting for a long time for this decision on the part of the government. I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us when this decision will be forthcoming.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the best answer is that the present minister is reviewing the

situation. The matter was under review during the 10 months that I was the minister, and there has been a good deal of discussion both with the labour representatives and the business representatives. We have discussed it on a number of occasions within committees of the government, and all I can say is that the minister continues that review.

Mr. B. Rae: This review, which this government seems to specialize in, surely needs to come to an end at some point.

I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us what the government's decision is with respect to the question of those who are now currently retired. He will remember that the Friedland report recommended basically doing nothing for people who are already on pension, and indeed all past contributions would not be covered by any indexing proposal suggested by Professor Friedland.

I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us what the views of the government are with respect to those hundreds of thousands of pensioners, who are now retired, who have seen their pensions literally decimated by the onslaught of inflation. Is it the government's intention to help those people?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The Leader of the Opposition knows, as do we all, that Professor Friedland's report did not recommend retroactive assistance, but he did have specific recommendations that were strong encouragement for companies with approved pension plans to recognize in an official way that those on retirement required adjustment on a regular basis. These are recommendations that the government has been looking at carefully.

I think he is also aware that in a very large percentage of the instances, the companies having the private pension plans that are approved have recognized on an ad hoc basis the improvements in pension requirements of those on pension.

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Mr. B. Rae: I think the Treasurer should know, if he wants to go over individual plans, how workers have been significantly shafted by the company plans and how the company surpluses have simply been building up at the same time as people are losing ground to inflation. If he wants to go over that ground again, we will go over it with him.

By way of final supplementary, I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us why the government has been so slow to deal with the haemorrhaging of these plans, not by means of the direct takeout

which we managed to stop some time ago because of the moratorium on surplus withdrawals, but the haemorrhaging which takes place because of these so-called contribution holidays which companies are encouraged and allowed to take.

I wonder if the Treasurer would not agree that the only way we are going to get a significant improvement in current plans is if we require companies to keep up their level of contribution so that the plans are financially healthy enough and have enough of a surplus, in fact, so that they can make a difference to their members who are now retired.

Would the Treasurer not agree that stopping contribution holidays is the one major way that we have of improving the pensions of people who are now retired?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I believe that under the requirements of the Pension Commission of Ontario there is a substantial surplus required before there is any approval for a contribution holiday. The honourable member would also be aware that it is not possible to deduct for income tax purposes contributions made to a pension plan above and beyond a certain level of insured—

Mr. B. Rae: Improve the plan and we will not have surpluses.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Of course, we can improve the plan and use up the surplus, and that is a judgement that is made, since these are private plans, by the people who are participating in them.

PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Offer: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. My question concerns, once again, the issue of the selection of a landfill site in Peel. I have a copy of a letter received by myself from what is called the Mississauga landfill site liaison committee, which indicates its concern about Peel's waste management problem and, among other items, in terms specifically of the sites to be re-evaluated.

As the minister is aware, his recent decision concluded that only the candidate sites identified as sites 1 to 7 were thoroughly evaluated and that those sites identified as sites A to E lacked such analysis and, accordingly, a re-evaluation was necessary. As it turns out, all of these sites are located in Brampton.

My question is whether this site re-evaluation must include potential sites other than those sites identified in the Peel environmental assessment process.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The proposed section 11 order requires only that sites A to E, inclusive, be considered in a similar manner as sites 1 to 7. I have had a lengthy and, I think, very productive meeting with representatives of the regional municipality of Peel and some of the individual municipalities as well as staff members, and at that time I think there were a lot of potential problems that were ironed out.

I think there is a strong feeling of co-operation that has ensued subsequent to that meeting. I think that working with our ministry officials we can resolve this matter in an amicable fashion and still meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. I know that all members of the House would want to ensure that whatever facility or site is selected it is environmentally the best site available to them, and that when the municipality proceeds as the proponent to the Environmental Assessment Board, it would proceed having met the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr. Offer: By way of supplementary, I have been contacted by some constituents and indeed have a copy of a resolution which was recently passed by the Mississauga council asking that in this re-evaluation, site B be excluded from any re-evaluation of the Peel region landfill process. My question is whether the section 11 order will allow the region of Peel to exclude site B from this re-evaluation process?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The section 11 order, as I have indicated and as I think the members from Mississauga and Brampton would be aware and be interested, does require that all sites A to E be included in that evaluation. When they are evaluated, of course, and some members may be aware that when there was an original look at the sites that were available within the regional municipality of Peel, A to E were evaluated in a certain manner at that time. What we are requiring is that they would be evaluated in the same manner as sites 2 and 6.

All aspects of it will be looked into, including of course the hydrogeology of the site, the environmental suitability. Included in that, under the Environmental Assessment Act, are social and economic considerations. Since the original evaluation of those sites, they may have changed or been modified, and I think that will be a very productive exercise.

PAROLE SUPERVISION

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. As a result of changes to the parole system of supervision, parolees under

high-level supervision are now reclassified to medium-level supervision sooner, and members of this same class of parolees need report only once a month to their officers instead of twice, provided they have participated in a self-help program of some sort. Will the minister acknowledge that this represents a reduction in service to the parolees and a reduction in security to the public?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Not at all. We make sure that in our parole system in Ontario we give adequate supervision and care for all our parolees.

Mr. Farnan: The minister has failed to answer the question. Let me rephrase for the minister, in short.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Farnan: To reiterate for the minister, it appears that parolees who should be seeking counselling from various agencies as a requirement of their conditional release are being induced into doing so with the offer of less supervision. I say to the minister that this is not the direction the public of Ontario wants from this ministry. The time spent with each parolee is being reduced. Will the minister give a guarantee that high-level supervision will be given to these parolees, and that means supervision twice a month by the officers, and that he will not reduce their level by reclassifying them to medium-level supervision simply for the sake of saving money and putting the people of Ontario at risk?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The questions have been asked.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: As a matter of fact, this morning I was in one of our probation and parole offices in Scarborough, talking to the staff and basically assessing workloads out there. I must say that Ontario has probably the most highly educated and trained parole staff anywhere. All our probation and parole officers have bachelor degrees and extra training. In assessing those case loads today, we have adequate supervision and good supervision of all our parolees across Ontario. I would be quite happy to debate this further with the member in estimates.

PENETANGUISHENE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. McLean: My question is to the Minister of Health. More than nine months ago she stood up in this Legislature and said that the complete redevelopment of the Oak Ridge facility at the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre was a

priority with her and her ministry. Will the minister inform us today as to the status of her planning and tell us when we can expect a construction date for this new facility?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am pleased to tell the member that in fact provision of mental health services in the province is something I am extremely concerned about, not only in the redevelopment of existing facilities but in the planning of community mental health facilities, in making sure that we have our psychiatric hospitals, our community hospitals and our community-based facilities operating in a co-ordinated and integrated fashion. As he knows, I believe we have a model for that, and that is the redevelopment of the Whitby facility. I am pleased to inform him that planning is going on at an appropriate pace.

Mr. McLean: The appropriate pace appears to have stopped. I want to know something from the minister. A couple of weeks ago I asked about the new hospital in the city of Orillia; the minister said she was still planning. Today, the minister says she is still planning. Is there any chance that we could get a time limit, approximately a year, when the minister determines she will be making approvals for these facilities?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The answer to the member is no.

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COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Reville: We were all a bit dumfounded at the shortness of that last answer. My question is to the same minister. About a year ago the minister asked Mr. Graham to take a look at services and programs in the community mental health area and Mr. Graham delivered a report which the minister released one Friday afternoon about mid-September. Since that time the minister has announced on at least two occasions that she was going to develop community mental health legislation and I would like to ask the minister if she could tell us what steps she has taken to make that community mental health legislation become real.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am very pleased to answer this question. I know the member's concern and interest for the development of appropriate community mental health legislation in this province. One of the first things I did as minister was to appoint Robert Graham and I was pleased to receive his report. I can tell the member opposite, as he knows, that I have

accepted the overall vision of the Graham report and support that vision.

We are moving forward on two fronts: first, to develop a process for the kind of consultation which will result in community mental health legislation; and second, to move forward to begin a plan to implement many of the very fine recommendations contained in that report.

Further, I have asked and will be asking the district health councils to move forward with the recommendation to develop an overall comprehensive community mental health plan for the province so that everything we do in the area of community mental health will have not only the legislative framework but a co-ordinated and integrated approach. I am pleased with the member's question and would thank him for his interest.

Mr. Reville: The minister does well to note my interest. In fact I have a bill that is gathering dust waiting to be scheduled after second reading at the standing committee on social development which has not come forward. The minister also indicates that she is moving forward to develop a process of consultation. It seems to me that is exactly what Mr. Graham did and that if, indeed, the minister is moving forward to develop this consultative process, why is it that none of the players in the mental health field has been asked to be involved in this process? I wonder if the minister will now commit to the House to set up an implementation team to get on with what Mr. Graham has recommended.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The report stresses the need for co-operation among local, regional and provincial programs. As I said to the member opposite, I believe this is a very significant report and a blueprint for the future. I have made a commitment to consult on framework legislation and I can assure the member that my style, as he knows, is always to consult and to ensure that the interested stakeholders and parties of this province who have an interest, whether it is in legislation or the development of a plan, will be involved. I give him my personal commitment that through this process the communities of this province that are interested, whether it is in the development of legislation or the development of a plan, will be consulted and invited to participate.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: I, as well, have a question to the Minister of Health. During the last election, the minister was in Burlington and announced a major capital expansion for Joseph Brant Memo-

rial Hospital—not her personally; the minister at the time, the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston). He promised the voters of Burlington that the only hospital in the city—Did the minister find the cue card? She has it. Okay, good.

The government promised, in very specific terms, the number of chronic and acute care beds and it also promised that the project would be completed within four years. Will the government and the minister honour their promise and the time lines that they have suggested for this badly needed capital expansion in Burlington for Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I believe it is extremely important for us to recognize that probably our capital planning is one of the most important things that we will be doing for the future of this province. I make the commitment today to ensure that our capital plan will reflect our needs for not only the few years to come but for the year 2000 and beyond, and I would tell the member that there are a number of capital projects before us in the ministry. They are currently under review.

Mr. Jackson: When the minister talks about needs, it was very clear that the Liberal Party had some serious need for votes in the last election and that is why it promised to provide the capital to Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital for its expansion. The fact of the matter is that the hospital has not had any major expansion for about 18 years, and the last time there was expansion the city was half the size it is today.

The problems are acute. We are asking her to honour her promise. She has now indicated that all these matters are under review. My question is this: Given that Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital and its board have raised considerable dollars to assist in the financing of this package, will the minister allow the hospital to proceed with certain selective expansions that it wishes to undertake to ensure that it can expand the services that are badly needed because of the pressures that are being experienced in the community of Burlington for growing health care needs? Will she allow them to spend that money?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, I would be pleased to look into the specific case that the member has raised. One of the concerns I have is that a number of projects which have been announced by the previous minister and by this government—in fact, some by myself—as we see the planning go forward, often increase in scope, increase in cost, and in fact the impact on our operating expenses is something with which we should all be extremely concerned.

As we look at and review our capital planning program in the province, it will be with the view that our capital planning needs must meet the objectives that we have not only for today but for the future, and we recognize that as we work together with the hospitals and the Ontario Hospital Association to develop the kind of process that will give us a rational and important planning process.

PETITIONS

SCHOOL OPENING EXERCISES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The Lord's Prayer was recently removed from opening exercises in all public schools in Ontario as a direct result of legislation by the Ontario government. We, the undersigned, wish to voice our disapproval of the aforementioned legislation and wish the Lord's Prayer reinstated at Ponsonby Public School in particular and all public schools in general."

This petition was signed by 71 concerned citizens from Ariss, Elora and communities in Wellington county adjacent and to the north of the city of Guelph. I have signed this petition and strongly endorse it.

PENSION PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Black: I have petitions signed by 563 members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union which read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, wish to emphatically express our discontent (not to mention our disappointment) toward being asked to contribute an extra 2.07 per cent to a pension fund into which we have neither input nor control, in order to keep full indexing of pensions to inflation. We consider this adjustment, in reality, to be a 2.07 per cent pay cut."

I have affixed my signature to these petitions.

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MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

Mr. Reycraft: I wish to table a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As citizens concerned about motorcycle safety, because of the appalling number of deaths and serious injuries, we ask the Minister of Transportation to act on the following recommendations:

"1. That the testing system for motorcycle licensing be uniform across the province, preferably using the type employed at the John Rhodes Centre, Brampton, which is of a very high calibre;

"2. That the provincial government promote more visibility to the problems of motorcycle safety. This should be organized professionally, producing an 'ad' campaign in the media against motorcycle drivers who drink and drive;

"3. That the provincial government make seed money available to the Ontario Safety League to make training more widely available in the province;

"4. That a system be devised to ensure that the registered owner of any motorcycle has a valid motorcycle operator's licence, either a learner's R permit or a permanent M licence, and

"5. That riders with less than two years' M licence experience not be allowed to carry passengers."

This petition bears the signature of some 938 individuals.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND

Mr. McCague: I wish to table a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criterion applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

This is signed by 33 people in Simcoe county, and I have attached my signature. It is presented in both English and French.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Elliot from the standing committee on general government reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Office for Disabled

Persons be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989:

Office for Disabled Persons program,
\$7,638,600.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman: I would like to ask the members how they would like to deal with this, vote by vote or a vote at the end, or what? May I have your opinion, please?

Mr. Eves: Vote at the end.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: A vote at the end? Is there unanimous consent to vote at the end?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: There are a number of important health care issues that I would like to address in my opening comments to this committee.

I appreciate this opportunity to illustrate how my ministry is preparing for the future, how we are developing programs to meet the changing health needs of the many groups which make up the Ontario population and how we will continue to develop and enhance one of the best health care systems in the world.

Canadians have proved to the world that publicly financed, publicly administered health care can be successful and equitable. We have built a national consensus in this country that health care is not just another commodity to be traded in the marketplace. We believe health care is an essential resource, vital to the wellbeing of our society.

Since becoming Health minister, I have been privileged to receive a large number of official visitors from the United States, Europe and Asia who asked to visit our ministry, tour our hospitals, speak to our physicians, our nurses and other health care professionals. Why do they come? They come because they want to see how Ontario's health care system works and they want to see our health care system at work. They want to learn from our experience and to take home ideas that might be applied or adapted to their own communities and their own settings.

In the past year I have also had the privilege of travelling widely throughout Ontario, meeting with district health councils, hospitals and other providers and health professionals. I have had the opportunity to present my vision of the future and

that vision is equity of access to effective quality health care, the very best we can afford, as close to home as possible.

Ontario health care today is being challenged by a number of economic, demographic and technological forces, three irresistible forces for change which demand we come up with new answers: how to provide health services with the financial resources available to us; how to provide the care and support our growing elderly population requires; how to use modern medical advances and how to use them effectively. These are the issues which our government is addressing and which our government is responding to.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of universal health care in Canada, it is my conviction that we must once again rediscover that sense of determination and renew the political and social will out of which our health care system was created, only this time we must direct our energies towards managing for the next generation and towards protecting, maintaining and enhancing the inheritance we have received.

It is my view that the decisions we make over the next five to 10 years are going to have major implications for our health care future. During the past 20 years, we have witnessed an incredible expansion in the range and diversity of health services. New medical technologies and procedures have developed. Traditional health professions have expanded. New professions have emerged and new concepts in health care, health promotion and disease prevention have been introduced.

Yet, when we look at how the Ministry of Health spends its money, we find that nearly 85 per cent of our total budget goes to support health care institutions and Ontario health insurance plan fee payments. When you consider that about one per cent of our budget is used to run the ministry, that means only 14 per cent is left to cover programs like community mental health, emergency services, public health, women's health, health promotion and all the other services we now consider a part of our comprehensive universal system. Obviously, funding priorities and funding allocations have to be rethought and redirected in order to meet the new health care era in which we find ourselves.

I believe health care is not a partisan issue, but that is not to say it is not a small-p political issue, because while we all share the ultimate goal of good health and good health care, not everyone agrees on how to achieve that goal. I think we can, however, agree on general directions.

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We know, for example, that today many chronic patients must turn to the high-technology, high-cost, acute hospital system for care and treatment, because that is the only option they have. One of our most pressing needs, therefore, is for a new network of community-based services and programs to meet these particular health needs and circumstances.

Furthermore, simply treating illness is not enough. We must also empower individuals to take charge of their own health. That means we must provide people with the options that make personal health choices both possible and practical. In today's society, health is no longer seen as simply the absence of disease. When we spoke about health 20 years ago, we were speaking about doctors, nurses and operating rooms. Today when we think of health, we also think of lifestyle choices. Health is understood to be a resource for living, the liberating capacity that allows us to cope with our surroundings and to realize our aspirations. This is the concept that has been accepted by the Premier's Council on Health Strategy and this is the concept that will shape future proposals for changing Ontario's health care.

The creation of the Premier's council indicates political commitment at the highest level to bring thoughtful, planned and managed change to the way health services are provided in this province. Ministry of Health expenditures in Ontario were just under \$4 billion 10 years ago; this year our budget is an estimated \$12.7 billion. A decade ago the health care allocation in Ontario accounted for 27 per cent of all provincial spending; today Health ministry expenditures represent fully one third of our entire provincial budget, an expenditure, members might be interested to know, that is over \$1.4 million an hour.

What is even more important to understand is that the percentage of the provincial budget being taken by the Ministry of Health is growing at a rate that exceeds the growth in our economy and the growth of our provincial budget, and this simply cannot be sustained over the long term. I am confident that no member of this committee envisages a future where all of our provincial resources are allocated to health care.

We know and believe that our quality of life means not only good health care but a fine education system, a clean environment, colleges and universities to educate our future generations, good roads and municipal services. Yet we know that there are some people who say \$12.7 billion for health is not enough. They argue that

the system is underfunded and that what is needed, among other things, is a massive flow of new funding, especially to the hospital and institutional health care sector. In the past four years, hospital budgets in Ontario have been increased by nearly 40 per cent. Not one hospital has had its budget reduced. There have only been increases.

Let's look at the hospital funding issue in more detail. In 1988-1989, Ontario will spend in the neighbourhood of \$5.5 billion for the operation of its 222 public hospitals. This sum represents nearly half of our total Health ministry expenditures of \$12.7 billion. In the 10-year period between 1978 and 1988, provincial spending on hospitals increased more than two and a half times, with an average annual increase of 10.7 per cent per year. Yet during that time hospitals continued to submit budget deficits to the ministry and, despite repeated warnings to the contrary, hospitals with deficits continued to be provided with some measure of relief. The result of this was that a de facto disincentive to balance budgets was built into the ministry's hospital funding mechanism.

In 1987 my predecessor, the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston), said it was time for a major turnaround in hospital funding practices, and a review of hospital funding patterns was announced. The ministry subsequently instructed the public hospitals that they were to operate within the budget allocated to them and, further, that they were to present balanced budgets for fiscal year 1988-89.

We took this difficult but necessary decision because we recognized that if we are to plan, manage and finance the health priorities of this province, we must know, and know precisely, what our funding commitments are going to be from year to year. Hospital deficits and the retroactive funding needed to finance them represented a serious threat to Ontario's health care. Specifically, they hindered our ability to finance needed new programs. Hospitals that followed the rules were penalized and treated unfairly.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Hospital Association in December 1987, I announced that the ministry would proceed with a review of Ontario hospitals which had a history of deficit financing and that a total of 23 hospitals would be involved. It was clear that our intention was not to cast blame but to identify the common factors contributing to the deficits and to indicate the actions the ministry might take to deal with the

situation. The reviews were completed this spring.

A Conjoint Review Committee, representing the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Nurses' Association and senior ministry staff, was then appointed to analyse the reviews and bring forward recommendations for corrective action. The review committee strongly supports my ministry's decision to no longer accept hospital deficits.

The report goes on to say that hospitals must be encouraged to operate within the financial resources available to them. To achieve this, they must place greater emphasis on strategic planning, information systems, program monitoring and evaluation and develop closer working relationships with district health councils.

Perhaps the major finding of the conjoint committee is the distinction between efficiency, as it relates to running the hotel operations of the hospital, and effectiveness, as it relates to managing the provisions of care. The report points out that in today's environment efficiency of operation is not the only standard by which hospital performance is measured. More and more, hospitals must be aware that effectiveness—effectiveness in care, effectiveness in care provided and effectiveness in results achieved—is a key factor to their financial health and operational integrity.

The Report of the Conjoint Review Committee points out that one of the difficulties faced by Ontario hospitals was that the ministry's funding procedures and mechanisms were unclear and open to misinterpretation and misunderstanding. It is therefore our intention to move forward with a full and comprehensive review of ministry funding procedures by the beginning of this new year. Our objective is to make the hospital funding process in this province as fair and as equitable as it can possibly be.

There are four stages in our movement towards fair funding. First, there was the conjoint report recommending a clarification of funding procedures. Second, we will develop a transitional funding process to get us through the short term. The third step will be the comprehensive review. Finally, we will thoroughly examine the capital planning process.

The movement towards fair funding and a fair funding formula for hospitals also means that hospitals must shift their focus away from trying to meet all perceived community needs at each institution and adopt a broader vision of care. We cannot expect every hospital to be all things to all

people. What we are therefore promoting, with the ministry and hospitals working together, is a regional approach to services whereby each hospital makes its contribution as part of a co-operative, co-ordinated plan. Not only will this prove to be cost-effective, it will provide higher-quality care for the patients, since the resources for specific procedures will be concentrated in designated centres of excellence.

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This raises another issue pressuring for change, and that is the issue of effective health care. In recent years we have witnessed what can only be described as a massive technological explosion in health care sciences. We have seen major breakthroughs in drug therapies and surgical procedures. We have witnessed a revolution in diagnostic services and equipment, and we now have at our disposal sophisticated new techniques in patient care and assessment. While no one will deny that these have been good and positive developments, we must be ready to question the ways in which these new resources are being used.

More is not always better. That adage applies to the health sciences just as it does to practically every field of human endeavour. We must manage technology so that the outcome is better-quality care. Unmanaged technology might simply mean an increase in the quantity of services being delivered, and that is an outcome that we simply cannot afford in either financial or, more important, human terms.

When we talk of scientific advances and medical technology, we must never lose sight of the fact that health care is a supremely human activity. I am very concerned about ensuring the best, most effective results, or health outcomes, for all Ontarians. I believe there is cause for concern. The Ontario drug benefit plan, for example, covers the cost of prescription drugs for those over the age of 65, for social service recipients and for a number of other eligible recipients. In the past four years, the costs of this program have been growing by more than 18 per cent per year. Our current drug benefit expenditures are now nearing \$600 million. When the program began in 1974, costs were projected to be about \$40 million annually.

While the cost escalation is an important concern, there are more serious implications. A recent survey of drug utilization in the province found that on a per capita basis, Ontarians are among the highest consumers of pharmaceuticals in the world, and this drug crisis is most acute among the elderly. The survey found that seniors

fill an average of 30 prescriptions per year. That is an average; and if that is the average, then obviously some people are using a lot more.

As a result, I have appointed a commission of inquiry headed by Dr. Frederick Lowy, former dean of medicine at the University of Toronto. I have asked him to look at all aspects of the government's role in the prescription drug marketplace. The Lowy inquiry, which is holding public hearings across the province, has been given responsibility to make recommendations for action at any time and to have a final report ready by next year.

Similarly, the task force on the use and provision of medical services has been established under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Medical Association. Its mandate is to review existing data, to commission new studies and to make necessary recommendations concerning the use and demand for physician services.

Both the ministry and the OMA are aware of the importance of assessing health resources from both the structural and the service delivery perspective. Patterns within the health care system need to be identified, as do the influences that have resulted in those patterns.

The issue of health service utilization and quality of care has become of such concern to health care professionals and to government that the Premier (Mr. Peterson), in association with McMaster Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, will be convening an international quality assurance symposium to be held here in Toronto in the fall of 1989.

Let me repeat again that we have become so concerned about health service utilization and quality care, and it is a concern not only to us but to health care professionals and governments, that our Premier announced recently in Saskatoon that, in association with McMaster Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, we will be convening an international quality assurance symposium which will be held here in Toronto in the fall of 1989.

To assist Ontario hospitals to improve their quality assurance procedures, the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Medical Association and the ministry have jointly co-operated to produce the Guide for Hospital Utilization Review and Management, which was published in mid-October. These guidelines are not meant to be restrictive. They were developed to help hospitals do their job more effectively.

More effective management of hospital resources can only result in improved quality of

care and improved quality assurance for patients. Under a regulatory change that became effective in mid-August, utilization review committees are now mandatory in all Ontario hospitals.

As recommended by the conjoint report, we are now drafting further regulatory changes to clarify the role and responsibilities of hospital boards and administrators and to promote greater management involvement for other health professionals, especially nurses.

As we move towards a new era of health care in this province, it will be essential that health professionals be able to work together, relate to one another and function within a regulatory framework that protects the public and gives us the assurance of quality services.

Before the end of this year, I expect to receive the proposal of the health professions legislative review, proposals for a new omnibus bill that will expand the number of self-governing health professions, effectively regulate the scope of practice for each profession and make the professions more accountable to the public they serve. Indeed, the overall objective of this review is to provide greater protection to the public interest.

My priority is to see that all health professionals—nurses, doctors, managers—work together so that we will provide a continuum of care that responds effectively to the health needs of our people.

But it is not just health care professionals; it is the hospitals and the other provider agencies, support staff, volunteers and government. We must all commit ourselves to work together if we are to be successful. That means working more closely with district health councils, which will have a stronger planning role. It means developing co-operative relationships with hospitals and other health providers. It means stronger regional planning to share resources effectively and to avoid needless duplication and waste.

I would like now to outline a number of other specific areas where the process of change and redirection in Ontario health services is now under way.

In the area of community-based health services, one of our most pressing needs is to create a stronger network of community programs, a network that will integrate services in the continuum of care, promote equitable access, meet the needs of people with chronic conditions, encourage prevention and health promotion, and at the same time be cost-effective.

In Ontario, we are exploring a number of innovative approaches to advance these objectives. The alternatives we are developing will help promote efficiency in the use of resources as well as high-quality patient care. They demonstrate that good health care economics is also good medicine.

Let me make clear that when we use the term "alternatives," we use it in two senses. The first refers to alternatives to the traditional way of paying for health services. The second refers to alternatives to institutional care. We are now developing six models that represent innovation in funding or service or both. These are health service organizations, community health centres, comprehensive health organizations, home care, the hospital in the home and independent health facilities. Let's look at each of these.

Health centres: Health service organizations and community health centres have evolved on parallel tracks since the 1960s. A health service organization or HSO receives a fixed daily per capita amount from the Ministry of Health to provide specified health services, including general practice and possibly some specialties, to individuals who enrol on its roster. The capitation payment is the same regardless of the number or nature of services that are actually used.

Let me state that I have been asking ministry officials to see if they can find another word, because quite frankly I have to tell members I do not like the term "capitation" at all. The connotation of decapitation is one that sounds—

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Like chop, chop.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Exactly; like chop, chop. However, I am told this is a term that is used internationally, so I will continue until we find a better term. I think in fact a better term is per person payment; that is really what capitation means. It also means a retainer on a per person amount.

A community health centre, or CHC, in contrast receives an annual budget from the ministry to provide specific health programs, usually general practice plus related health services to a defined target group.

For many years, these two alternatives to fee for service were considered experimental. It was not until 1982 that they were formally recognized by the ministry as legitimate and permanent parts of the health care system. This new status was reinforced in 1986 when the Premier announced a commitment to double the number of people served by health service organizations, HSOs, and community health centres, CHCs, by 1991.

Health service organizations: The capitation payment for HSOs is based on the average cost in the preceding year of providing fee-for-service care in Ontario to a person of similar age and sex. I might add that this capitation formula is currently being reviewed.

Coupled with capitation is a debit system called negation, which penalizes the HSO when a roster member goes to another provider for services the organization is under contract to provide. In practice, we have found that patient loyalty to HSOs is very high and the use of outside services quite low. In addition to capitation funding, an HSO receives a bonus if its members on average use fewer days of acute hospital care than do non-HSO members in the region. This ambulatory care incentive program allots the HSO one third of the dollar value of the hospital days saved.

These sources of funds give HSOs a stable financial base, which makes it feasible for them to focus on health promotion and illness prevention activities. Many HSOs hire allied health professionals such as nurse practitioners, social workers and nutrition counsellors, and offer ambulatory care programs to reduce the need for hospitalization.

Currently, HSO patients use about 22 per cent fewer hospital days than their counterparts not enrolled in an HSO. That is a remarkable record of productive use of health care resources and it is one of the reasons the ministry is actively promoting expansion of the HSO concept.

HSOs can be sponsored in two ways, by nonprofit community boards and by groups of physicians. The latter is by far the most frequent. New HSOs are formed simply by converting a fee-for-service medical practice to the capitation system. At present, Ontario has 37 HSOs, serving some 250,000 patients. In addition, the ministry is now approving capitation payments for solo physicians on a trial basis. We will convert 10 practices as pilot projects in response to requests from physicians who feel capitation would give them greater freedom to develop health promotion concepts for their patients.

Our first and still largest HSO is the Group Health Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Its roster includes about 42,000 people, or roughly half of the local population. Organized by the steelworkers' union in 1963, the centre was converted to program funding when the provincial health insurance plan was introduced in 1968 and later shifted to the capitation system.

The Sault Ste. Marie centre is a pace-setter in other ways. In addition to the normal HSO

payments, it also receives funding for allied health services offered prior to 1968, mainly laboratory services, optometry, physiotherapy and counselling. Today, the centre offers general practice and 11 different medical specialties and an even broader range of allied health services such as women's health services, a pain control program, a sports injury clinic, chiropody, X-rays, mammography and more.

The ministry would like to see other HSOs follow this path and expand their range of services by hiring more allied health professionals. Since there is no easy way to convert these salaries to a capitation basis, we intend to provide service grants to enable HSOs to engage such professionals.

This new funding will have a dual impact. It will improve access to health services for roster members and will also make the HSO even more attractive as a model for both providers and patients. I should point out that considering the number of inquiries the ministry has received regarding the establishment of new HSOs, we should easily realize our target of doubling the number of people served in these alternative settings.

Community health centres have proven particularly effective in reaching certain sectors of our population. They are administered by nonprofit incorporated boards and their personnel, including physicians, are salaried staff. CHCs are organized around specific population groups having above-average rates of illness or needing better access to health care, such as the poor, the elderly or immigrant groups.

More recently, CHCs have been proposed to meet specific needs of French-speaking Ontarians, women, the elderly, teenagers and various multicultural and ethnic groups. In all, we now have 15 community health centres in operation and a further six approved for startup.

Community health centres are community initiated. A proposal to establish a CHC must describe the target population, document needs, propose programs to meet those needs and show evidence of community support. The application is then reviewed by a district health council, the regional planning body, which makes a recommendation to the ministry, and the Minister of Health has final approval.

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Program-based funding offers community health centres the flexibility to tailor programs and services to the specific needs of their target community. General medical care is combined with a range of services that could embrace

health promotion, outreach and advocacy, social work, psychological counselling, chiropody, support groups and special programs for senior citizens and multicultural groups.

This year, for example, the ministry has allocated new funding for culturally sensitive programming in community health centres. To date, 12 community health centres have staff who are fluent in languages other than French and English, and we have funded special programs to serve Southeast Asians, Portuguese-speaking, Spanish-speaking and native Canadian clients in some of our larger cities.

I think members can readily appreciate that the community health centre model is well suited to rural, nonurban areas. By making funds available to establish, equip and staff a centre, we can often attract a physician to an underserved locality, at least on a part-time basis. The community health centre could also bring in allied health professionals on a part-time basis, improving access to care.

Despite these features, Ontario has only two community health centres outside urban areas. We believe this will change as the concept becomes better known and better understood. In co-operation with the Association of Ontario Health Centres and district health councils, the ministry, over the next few years, will actively promote the CHC model, especially in our northern and rural communities.

Comprehensive health organizations are of great interest to the ministry. Health historians, looking back some day, may see health service organizations and CHCs as the early stages of the comprehensive health organization or CHO. This is a new innovation I would like to discuss today.

The ministry is now designing a proposal to adapt the health maintenance organization or HMO concept to the Canadian context. The comprehensive health organization would manage the complete range of primary, diagnostic, ambulatory, hospital and nursing home services as well as home care for participating individuals in a given geographic area. Through the CHO, that is, the comprehensive health organization, all forms of care would be delivered under a single unified management reporting to a nonprofit community board. The organization would provide as many services as possible itself, and arrange for other facilities to offer services that are not feasible within the CHO due to its size or location.

The CHO would assume responsibility for the health status of its members without reference to

the volume or type of services delivered. This CHO structure would have a number of advantages.

By giving one organization responsibility for both health care services and health care resources at all levels, the concept would provide an incentive for productivity and a means to achieve it. Where appropriate, equally beneficial lower cost services could be substituted for higher cost ones, and hospital care could be replaced with ambulatory services or home care. The CHO structure would also encourage a focus on preserving health and preventing disease and hospitalization.

The funding arrangements would be set up so that the ministry and the CHO would share the financial benefits of using resources effectively.

As I indicated, comprehensive health organizations would be overseen by community boards. The roster membership would be open to the community at large through voluntary enrolment. No individual would be refused membership because of his or her health status. We hope to develop and demonstrate our first CHO next year.

I would like to discuss home care for a moment, the fourth community health innovation I want to discuss, which provides for a variety of professional and support services in the patient's own home. The concept has gained wide acceptance among public and health professionals, especially during the early pilot projects of the 1960s.

Home care is now available province-wide, with 38 programs in operation. Most of these programs, 29 of the 38, are run by boards of health. Others are sponsored by the Victorian Order of Nurses, public hospitals and regional social service departments. The largest, in Metropolitan Toronto, has an autonomous board.

The Ministry of Health funds these local services fully through annual program budgets. Services provided include nursing, home-making, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, social work, nutrition counselling, respiratory technologists and—this is a difficult word—enterostomal therapists; those are for the people who have colostomies. I know what it is; I just have trouble saying the word.

The goal is to avoid or delay institutional admission, to reduce length of stay and facilitate earlier discharge from hospital or other facility.

Home care originally focused on short-term care for acute illness. In the mid-1970s, chronic care pilot projects began in recognition of the

ageing population and the rising number of chronically ill patients. All of our 38 local programs now offer both acute and chronic home care.

The role of these programs is steadily expanding. Since 1984, for example, home care has been responsible for school support services. This component provides nursing and other services in the schools to allow physically and mentally challenged students to integrate into the regular educational system.

Home care agencies are also administering a new home care program now established in several pilot areas. It provides housekeeping and similar services to allow frail elderly and physically disabled persons to remain in their own homes. While this is a social service rather than a medically oriented program, we recognize the benefits of common case management and the convenience of access for the client.

With the phasing in of the chronic care component and other responsibilities, the costs and utilization of home care have risen dramatically. In 1987-88, the programs served more than 680,000 clients, more than double the number six years earlier. During that period, expenditures have more than tripled. At the same time, we are facing demands to offer more medically complex services in the home and to provide shift, rather than visiting, nursing.

In this climate, the ministry has launched an extensive operational review of the home care program. It is being conducted by Price Waterhouse and should be completed in the next few months. The review is considering the position of home care in the province's health and social service system. It will recommend whatever changes in program design are needed for home care to play an appropriate role.

This brings me to the hospital-in-the-home concept, another alternative to institutionalization, which is in the early planning stages. Under this concept, patients would receive at home the same services they receive in hospital, such as intravenous drips, shift nursing, medical equipment, physicians' services for monitoring and treatment, and 24-hour access to hospital staff. This approach can be seen either as an extension of the hospital room into the home or the expansion of our existing home care services to meet the needs of more patients.

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Several Ontario hospitals have been considering hospital-in-the-home projects to make the most efficient use of their resources. They feel some patients could be discharged more quickly

if such a program were available. In addition, other patients could be referred directly to the hospital in the home from emergency departments. This alternative would take some of the pressure off specialized and expensive inpatient facilities.

Obviously, careful selection of patients will be crucial to ensuring safe and appropriate hospital care at home. We will especially have to make sure that patients and their families truly participate voluntarily, given the degree of responsibility involved. We now envision a number of possibilities for sponsoring the hospital in the home. Sponsors could be a hospital, a home care program or a combination of these, or perhaps a health service organization that would purchase services from the hospital and a home care program. When we have finished the preliminary work on this innovative concept, we will call for proposals to implement it in five pilot locations in various regions of Ontario.

Our final community health innovation is the independent health facility, which is essentially a free-standing facility offering services commonly done on an outpatient basis in hospitals. This concept is based on the tremendous potential new technology and medical expertise have to move health care into the community and permit safe, cost-effective and convenient services in nonhospital settings.

The Independent Health Facilities Act, now in second reading in the Legislature, will enable the ministry to develop a planned, orderly, quality-assured system of community-based care. It will require all independent facilities to obtain a licence from the ministry. This will allow us, on advice from the district health councils, to determine the mix of community health services right across this province.

Once the need for a facility has been established, the ministry will call for proposals and then award a licence on a competitive basis. There will be a provision for grandfathering of existing facilities so they can obtain a licence without having to go through the competitive process. The ministry will have authority to choose the financing method for each facility. It may select either global funding to cover all of the operational costs including professional services, or partial funding for costs other than salaries, leaving the physicians free to bill the province's insurance plan for their professional services.

I want to make it clear, however, that this bill in no way de-emphasizes the role of our public hospitals. Our aim is to free up those hospitals to

do what they do best, to provide those diagnostic and treatment services that truly require a hospital setting. We are consulting closely with the hospital community and other major health associations on this legislation so that it can be implemented to provide maximum health benefits for all.

All these approaches in developing community-based health care have a common goal. That goal is to provide equitable access to effective quality health care as close to home as possible.

I believe that women's health services must receive special attention in building our health care future. There are now more choices available to women than ever before, choices in education, careers and, yes, in health as well. In the 1970s, the women's health movement began to identify weaknesses and gaps in the existing system. Given the unique needs of women, available health services were identified as needing improvement.

For example, the emphasis on medical care and treatment was not meeting women's needs for health information and consultation. There were, and continue to be, gaps in services in some communities. These gaps include the need for health education and support groups in areas such as menopause, premenstrual syndrome, family planning and infertility treatments. Certain groups of women such as single mothers, immigrant women, low-income women and teenagers were not seeking help from the traditional health care system.

In response to these concerns, my ministry has taken a number of important actions. A women's health bureau is now functioning in the ministry to promote greater awareness of women's health issues. The bureau takes an active daily involvement in the ministry's decision-making process. All new program proposals, for example, are assessed for their implications for women.

We have also moved to establish a number of regional women's health centres throughout Ontario. Four such programs have already been announced.

The program at Women's College Hospital in Toronto will serve as the central access point for consultation on women's health services. It will also provide a wide range of written and audio-visual material for use in other centres across the province. Programs at the women's centre will include services such as physical examinations, pregnancy assessment and diagnosis. There will be support programs for single mothers, education and support programs in

menopause and premenstrual syndrome. Some centres will include counselling in family planning and contraception, infertility counselling, as well as referral for abortions. All centres will be designed to ensure that women have timely access to the services they need in a sensitive and supportive environment from professionals who are committed to quality of care and quality of choice.

The birthing environment is another issue which we are addressing. We recognize that attitudes, expectations and practices surrounding childbirth are changing dramatically in our society. Growing numbers of women and their families are looking for a renewed emphasis on naturalness, the normalcy of childbirth. Surveys show that a significant majority of women today will choose a more family-centred approach to childbirth. We now have four birthing centres in the province, and while they are hospital-affiliated to provide us with the highest possible safety margin, they create an environment that is homelike and relaxed. They provide room for family members. They emphasize a minimum of intervention during labour and delivery. They enable mothers, newborn infants and family members to be brought together immediately after birth in celebration.

In short, what these birthing centres do is emphasize that childbirth is a natural process, a process that represents the beginning or the extension of a family, a process that is fundamentally human, not primarily an issue of medical management. I believe we have a responsibility to create more options and choices within the system so that women and their families are free to pick the type of birthing procedure which in their estimation best suits their own personal and family needs.

Implementing midwifery in Ontario health care is another issue we are addressing and we have established a number of guiding principles. Last year I released the excellent report prepared by the Task Force on the Implementation of Midwifery in Ontario. I said then that our government is committed to moving on the report's principal recommendation and that we will proceed with the integration of midwives into Ontario health care.

First, a primary goal is to ensure maximum protection to the public. This means that midwives must be properly trained and appropriately regulated so that the highest quality of care is achieved.

Second, we want to ensure maximum co-operation. Midwifery services must be integrated

into Ontario health care in such a way that nurses, physicians, midwives and hospitals will co-operate and agree on the protocols and procedures for consultation and referral. In other words, we want to develop a team relationship among the providers of care.

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Third, we want to see midwifery services introduced in a credible manner. In order to foster public confidence and develop co-operative relationships with other care providers, we want to develop the building-block approach so that midwifery is seen as a complementary service to services already available. We intend to establish a midwifery service that will be creative, positive and a valuable link to the health care network of this province.

One of the factors this has led to is an increased focus on women's health care and it may be attributed to a general trend towards a broader vision of what health means. I believe positive approaches to promoting women's health must be specifically based on the vision that women should have the information they need to make informed choices about their own health. This vision assumes that the right balance in services must be struck, a balance that includes curative medical services, health promotion, disease prevention and education.

I believe we are now developing innovative alternatives and choices for women within Ontario's health care and we are on our way to seeing our vision of women's health and women's health services become a reality.

One of the prime goals of the Ontario government is to ensure that people of all cultural backgrounds, all cultural heritages, have an equal opportunity to participate fully in Ontario's society and to enjoy the benefits of Ontario health care. The Ministry of Health has a major responsibility in realizing this objective, and we are committed to work with the Premier's Council on Health Strategy and the Advisory Committee on Multicultural Health, which I appointed in April of this year.

Already a number of important steps have been taken. This spring we launched an extensive information campaign aimed at the promotion of improved multicultural awareness in the health care community. An information kit and questionnaire were sent to more than 400 agencies, including community health centres, health service organizations, public health units and district health councils.

This kit contains information on our government's objectives for multicultural and race

relations programs, a multicultural database and a list of health publications available in languages other than English and French.

The Premier has announced plans to seek proposals from multicultural groups for 600 new nonprofit nursing home beds at an annual cost of approximately \$8.4 million. We anticipate these new facilities will be culturally focused in order to provide older people with the care they need in settings comfortable to them and that they will provide an outreach service to their communities at large.

I have asked the Advisory Committee on Multicultural Health to develop guidelines and criteria for these bed allocations so that we can proceed and be seen to proceed with fair, rational planning. I expect that we will have procedures in place for the submission of proposals by year end. We are also looking to the 28 district health councils for their help in advancing our cause. I have written to all district health councils, asking them to review their membership to ensure that they fairly represent their multicultural communities and clientele.

We are currently working with district health councils to give them an expanded role in the planning of health services, a new mandate that has major implications for multiculturalism. I have asked the district health councils to review the adequacy of culturally focused services within each district, to strengthen their relations with multicultural groups and to notify the communities and agencies of each council that the multicultural needs must be considered when proposals for new programs are being developed.

We have funded multicultural programs in five community health centres across the province: two, as I mentioned, for Southeast Asians in a community health centre in Toronto and one in Ottawa; a program for the Portuguese community in Toronto and one for Spanish-speaking people in Hamilton.

In October, I announced startup funding to serve native Canadian people at the Anishnawbe Health Centre. I announced the new multicultural Davenport-Perth Community Health Centre and Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre, both of which were recommended by the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council.

I also announced my ministry's support for the establishment of Ontario's newest community health centre, the London Intercommunity Health Centre. This proposal, which was first developed through the London Immigrant Seniors Project, is now sponsored by the Intercul-

tural Health Share Project. This one will offer primary medical care, specialty clinics, health education and promotion services.

We have recognized the need to assist health care professionals in sensitizing themselves to the varying needs of our many multicultural groups. There is a need to provide health professionals with relevant, tactful and current information so that they might better serve their communities more effectively.

To promote this objective, I recently announced a new multicultural education initiative that will be supported by a grant of \$107,000 jointly funded by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Citizenship and sponsored by the Ontario Hospital Association. Program details will soon be in place, with training manuals and a series of workshops. The full program will also include the use of audio-visual materials. The ministry is reviewing its efforts to meet the special needs of minority multicultural interests such as women, visible minority women and immigrants in our community.

Together with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), we are now completing a policy framework for the implementation of many of these multicultural initiatives. This is an important undertaking in policy development which has benefited greatly from the assistance of the Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship. I am very grateful for their efforts.

It should be clear from what we have accomplished in a relatively short period of time that our government has adopted a set of principles and established a course of action aimed at ensuring that all citizens from all communities have equity of access and opportunity. Our objective is to see that Ontarians from all cultural backgrounds enjoy full participation in the life of our province and are able to enjoy the benefits which our society provides.

In 1985, the Ontario government adopted a policy framework stating that native peoples should receive all government programs and services on a nondiscriminatory basis, and further, services for native people must be delivered in such a way so as to support the preservation of their cultures.

Since we are entering a time when government is ready to act upon new creative alternatives in health care, we are entering a time when health needs and expectations of native peoples need to be brought into sharper focus. Several weeks ago, as I mentioned, I announced the funding for Anishnawbe Health Centre here in Metropolitan

Toronto. With this new centre, a new era of health will begin for some 20,000 to 35,000 native people living in the Toronto area. This new centre, run by native people for native people, is a reflection of the changes taking place in our health care system. By its third year of operation, the centre expects to serve 3,000 native people every year, with an operating budget of approximately \$800,000.

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I recognize that in the past there have been some jurisdictional issues related to native health care, questions about whether native communities preferred to deal with the federal or provincial government. Fortunately, most of these issues are now being resolved. I have encouraged native leaders to develop closer working relationships with district health councils and to help the DHCs develop a better understanding of the health concerns of native communities.

Even before I became Minister of Health, I was aware that people with mental health problems are better off in familiar surroundings and close to those who know and care for them. As minister, my personal conviction has strengthened. We must build a comprehensive, accessible network of community-based mental health services right across this province.

Such a system should draw together programs of nonprofit agencies like general and psychiatric hospitals and those offered by other ministries and other levels of government. We must build a system offering a wide range of services geared to the needs of local communities and target groups. We must continue to shift the focus from institutional care to community-based care.

The past several decades have witnessed profound changes in the treatment of mental illness. Twenty-five years ago more than half of those with psychiatric disabilities spent seven years or more in institutions. Now, for most patients, the days of long-term confinement are over. Ninety per cent of Ontario's psychiatric patients now spend less than one month in hospital; 65 per cent spend less than two weeks.

Yet many people need short-term help with an emotional problem and more serious disorder at some point in their lives. One in eight Canadians will be hospitalized for mental illness at least once, and each year between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of the population seeks help in primary care settings for emotional and behavioural problems.

I was just looking across the way. I was waiting for an interjection again, because I did

mention emotional and behavioural problems. I thought the member might want to interject.

Mental health disabilities are not spread evenly across the population. In 1981, a federal study found those most prone to anxiety and depression, for instance, were either under the age of 20 or over 55 and more likely to be female, widowed, divorced or separated and with low income and limited education. Emotional and mental disorders among youth and elderly persons are a serious social problem.

We also know that physical and mental health are affected by many factors other than physiological functioning. Housing, family strength, work environment, stress, drug and alcohol use, recreation and social support networks all influence our mental and physical wellbeing.

In caring for people with mental health disabilities, crisis management and hospitalization for acute episodes, while essential, are not enough. Services must be directed towards prevention as well as ongoing care and support. This calls for better integration of existing services and expansion of services at the community level.

Within the past two years, our government has received a number of key reports that will help to shape health policy and planning to the end of this century. The Ontario Health Review Panel, chaired by Dr. John Evans, stresses the need for better co-ordination and co-operation among health care providers to ensure the most appropriate care possible for all Ontarians. The panel also underlined the need for more health services based in local communities and noninstitutional settings.

Dr. Robert Spasoff, in his study defining health goals for Ontario, reinforced the Evans panel findings, adding yet a further dimension. We must foster an environment that supports health, he argued and he urged, and we must begin to weigh the success of our health programs in terms of health outcomes on a societal basis.

It has been a long, hard battle to overcome the stigma and fear of mental illness, and the battle is not yet won. But since the first approved homes program of the 1930s and the development of psychiatric services in general hospitals in the 1950s, there has been a steady move away from institutionalization. In this province, 1976 marked the first time community mental health programs were funded by the provincial Treasury. Now the Ministry of Health supports 320 community mental health services across the province.

Last year I appointed the Provincial Community Mental Health Committee. The committee's report, called the Graham report after chairman Robert Graham, was released in September. When I appointed the committee, I asked it to solicit broad-based input from groups and interested parties right across the province. I asked them to define what constitutes a community mental health delivery system, to develop program standards for urban, rural and remote settings and to advise me on measures to meet the needs of specific groups, including women, youth, the elderly, ethnic minorities and native Ontarians.

The report contains 19 recommendations. The first three set out broad goals and principles for mental health policy in Ontario. I will quote one paragraph from the report which I think captures the overall thrust of the recommendations, if I may:

"It is the conclusion of this committee that mental health care must be focused in the community. Ontario's mental health care system should provide a comprehensive range of services and support to people as close to their homes as possible. Such a system must be able to address a broad range of mental health needs. Our committee has concluded that priority must first be given to helping people with serious mental illness or impairment, and their families."

As I stated this afternoon during question period, I am in fundamental agreement with these overall objectives. The goals are consistent with stated government policy to pursue and promote community-based alternatives to traditional institutional care. I am especially pleased with the emphasis on chronic and severe psychiatric disability as the number one priority. Although we have had this report only a short time, I have already directed my ministry to prepare a work plan, with consultation inside and outside government, that will culminate in community mental health legislation. A more formal structure, based in legislation, is needed to provide a framework for future expansion of the community mental health system in Ontario.

This summer my ministry designated a mental health co-ordinator position with broad-based responsibility for mental health programs throughout the ministry. The co-ordinator position has responsibility and authority to forge co-operation, communication and consultation among different program areas. Out of this, we hope, will come greater co-ordination and integration of mental health programs at the delivery level.

Another recommendation we intend to implement is that each district health council be asked to develop a mental health plan setting out how essential functions will be provided in each district. Ministry staff are working with DHCs on this process, and we expect to have all plans within the recommended time frame of 1991.

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I fully support and am committed to this policy direction. I believe that expansion of our community mental health network is the direction in which we must move. I also believe that this path offers us the best opportunity to build community resources and strengthen our support network among family and friends.

I have asked Ontario's 28 district health councils to take on a leadership role in preparing our health care future. I have asked them to provide their expertise so that together we properly manage our precious health care resources. This will mean the DHCs will be expected to undertake a more detailed analytical examination of the mix of programs and services now provided in their districts. It will mean making decisions about appropriateness, and therefore the effectiveness, of those programs.

It will also mean decisions about reducing duplication and program rivalry, so that funds can be allocated where they are most needed and where they will be most effective. It will mean decisions about health manpower planning, so that we will have the right numbers and the right mix of professionals to provide the services required in this province.

When I met with district health council chairmen last year we discussed the need for more information so that all DHCs could effectively analyse the needs of their communities. The health service number we are considering and the health status survey, which will begin next year, could also exist in this new venture.

Both of these will help us to obtain a better, more precise health profile of the people of this province, to know which population groups are receiving the services they need. Yet we recognize that data can never substitute for good judgement and local perceptions of priorities.

To help in the shaping of our health care future, my ministry will soon be releasing a major document for public discussion and consultation. The document will be an overview of Ontario health care and will highlight certain key areas that need to be widely discussed and debated.

As part of our new role and as part of their new role, I will be asking district health councils to

help us organize community settings where these ideas can be talked about and discussed. It is my hope that out of these meetings we will receive new insights and new directions that will point us towards a confident and productive future.'

My ministry recently launched a comprehensive, three-year healthy lifestyles promotion program focused on quitting smoking, moderate alcohol consumption and healthy nutrition. My ministry will provide \$1.5 million in annual funding for this program, which includes public education, community support and a community action strategy. This is a positive program aimed at creating greater public awareness of healthy lifestyles and encouraging individuals to make health-affirming choices.

An important aspect of the program will be community participation. A review of other health promotion programs now in operation indicates that community support and participation are essential to program effectiveness and the achievement of positive outcomes and results. A major emphasis will be placed on assisting communities to mobilize services that will support individuals making healthy choices.

The healthy lifestyles campaign will be evaluated during the three years of its development and implementation. We expect that the information obtained will be a valuable tool for the planning of other local health promotion programs and services.

Earlier this year I announced the first health promotion grants in a \$1-million program for community-based health promotion projects. I also announced a new \$1-million program aimed at reducing heart and vascular disease. The healthy lifestyles promotion program will now complement and support these efforts. Taken together, each of these initiatives has the potential of having a profound and positive impact on the health and the wellbeing of the people of this province.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome cuts down people in the prime of their lives, and needlessly. These needless, preventable deaths from AIDS must stop. Until a vaccine is developed, however, education and information are our only weapons to combat the spread of AIDS. It has become a personal goal of mine since becoming Health minister to become informed and to learn as much as possible about AIDS. I have met personally with many international and local experts as well as local community AIDS groups. Last spring, my ministry launched a \$7-million, two-year public information and media campaign, a campaign designed

to get people thinking about and talking about AIDS as an issue that relates both to personal health and to the public health of Ontario.

The campaign has already had a substantial effect. Calls to the AIDS Hotline are now numbering about 2,000 a week, triple the number before the campaign began. Over three million copies of the pamphlet *Let's Talk*, in English and French, have been distributed throughout the province. Another 300,000 copies in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese have been sent to publications and cultural associations.

Since the campaign, we have also surveyed public attitudes about AIDS. Our surveys show that the level of knowledge has increased on every question we asked as a result of our campaign. Public awareness is growing and people are better informed, but there still remains a lot of work to be done. Next month my ministry will be sponsoring a working conference on the care and treatment of AIDS patients.

I also introduced earlier today and announced that 10 new programs proposed by community-based AIDS groups have been approved for ministry support and funding of \$519,706. Some of these programs will give AIDS information and education to hard-to-reach groups, while others will provide much-needed support for people with AIDS and human immunodeficiency virus infection as well as support for their family and friends. Last November, I announced 53 programs to provide AIDS information, education and support over two years. Of these, 37 were public health units funded for some \$5.5 million, and 16 were community group programs, which received \$1.6 million.

For this fiscal year, an additional \$750,000 has been allocated for health unit and community group AIDS programs. The 10 programs that I announced today were funded out of that \$750,000, and they form part of our overall co-ordinated plan to provide Ontarians with the information they need on the subject of AIDS. This information is of vital importance for our society. I believe that we must be ready to provide compassionate support for those who have been most directly affected by this dreadful disease: the people with AIDS, their family and their friends.

1630

As I mentioned, three major reports submitted to the ministry in the past year—the Ontario Health Review Panel chaired by Dr. John Evans, the Panel on Health Goals for Ontario headed by Dr. Robert Spasoff, and one I would like to

mention now, the advisory committee on health promotion chaired by Steve Podborski—all reached the same conclusion. Each declared that the direction of the health care system must shift to place more emphasis on resources, community care, health promotion and disease prevention.

The restructuring of the Ministry of Health is a response to this new emerging consensus. It involves a new management approach that will give us greater flexibility to design and manage programs from a more proactive position.

Our old organization had evolved from the need to pay for insured services. Reflecting this insurance-dominated approach, the ministry's activities formerly were divided into six different functional areas: institutional health, community and public health, mental health, emergency and special health, finance and administration which included the Ontario health insurance plan, and policy planning and systems.

The new concept of management, however, cuts across these functional lines. We are moving towards a program-oriented matrix organization. Among other things, this will allow us to more effectively respond to the kind of integrated program proposals the district health councils have been recommending.

Almost all new initiatives are presented as cross-ministry programs. Under our old management structure, this meant they had to be broken down and frequently parceled out among a number of management teams. The AIDS program, for example, was divided between institutional health, which was responsible for hospitals and outpatient clinics, and community health, which oversaw public and health promotion. And it was never clear whether women's services represented an institutional issue, a community issue or a policy and planning issue.

Another problem was the inability to develop a sustained interaction with other ministries, especially the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This persisted even though links between Health and Community and Social Services are becoming a crucial factor for the effective delivery of services.

We are now restructuring the Ministry of Health to reflect a multidimensional or matrix approach.

The first dimension consists of our traditional line organizations regrouped into three main responsibilities. The three main divisions are, first, personal health, which embraces programs such as drug benefits, assistive devices and ambulance services and also maintains relations with health care professionals; second, commu-

nity health, which includes home care, community mental health and other noninstitutional services, as well as public health and health promotion; third, institutional health, which encompasses community hospitals, teaching and specialty hospitals, provincial psychiatric institutions and nursing homes.

Superimposed on this is a second dimension reflecting the program or health goal of the ministry and the program the ministry wishes to manage.

Each program has its own co-ordinator to act as an advocate and facilitator on the program's behalf. The co-ordinators will move across all departments to achieve integrated programs that operate effectively and efficiently. They will have lines of communication with all three ministry divisions—personal, community and institutional health—to ensure that all three work together. Their focus will be on the outcomes desired and the results achieved.

Each co-ordinator will be a driving force for new initiatives and the proponent of community proposals. These positions will also become a primary point for co-ordination and linkages with other ministries. In addition, they will serve as the principal ministry contact for the general public and special interest groups. This responds to the frustration expressed by advocacy groups over their inability to find a single point of regular contact within the ministry.

Initially, five co-ordinators are being appointed for specific programs: emergency services, mental health, AIDS, cancer and cardiovascular services. Further co-ordinators will be introduced in the future, depending upon advice from the Premier's Council on Health Strategy and from other sources as well.

In addition to the co-ordinators for designated programs, we are appointing co-ordinators for target groups we have identified as requiring a special focus at all levels. These are women, native people, French-speaking Ontarians, multicultural communities and residents of the north. The target group co-ordinators will serve as an advisory resource to the entire ministry, including the health program co-ordinators.

Through the restructuring, we are positioning the ministry to expand its role from administrator to innovator. The new alignment will enable us to provide more imaginative leadership to create a healthier Ontario.

I have outlined only a number of the issues and health care challenges my ministry is responding to as we prepare for the future. We have begun and we are making progress. I am prepared to

discuss these and any other issues the members may wish to raise and I look forward to our discussions over these hours in estimates.

Mr. Eves: I wish, at the outset, to put a few comments on the record about the status of the health care system in Ontario; then I hope we can get into some more specific questions. I would like to obtain an undertaking from the minister, however, at the outset of these estimates, that she will be responding to questions directed to her, not only from myself but my colleagues and the members of the official opposition as well, before the estimates process is completed. I wonder if that commitment may be forthcoming from the minister.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Yes, I would be delighted to.

Mr. Eves: I thank the minister.

As I said, I would like to speak initially about the overall status of the health care system in Ontario and where I see it going or not going. As a member of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, I must say I feel a sense of pride in the excellence of the health care system that has been built in Ontario. It is also with some sense of remorse that I look over what I and many other people view as a decline in that system in the past three years.

I do not think the health care system in the province has been particularly well managed over the last three years, and I think there are a lot of aspects of the health care system in the province that are now facing crises.

1640

When the Premier took power in 1985, he gave us a lot of, I think, simplistic answers to some very difficult problems. One answer was that accessibility to health care in Ontario could be resolved by banning extra-billing in the province, or Bill 94. I think that type of knee-jerk reaction is characteristic of some of the planning in the health care system by this government, sort of a "ready, shoot aim" policy, as my leader has often referred to it. It is quite often, unfortunately, government by headline and response to crisis instead of looking at the real problems and long-term solutions.

The real problems of accessibility to health care are those of geography, staffing and technology. There are still not enough voices in northern Ontario in health care. Travel grants in my area of the province and certainly areas further north are inadequate. There is still a lack of physicians in remote areas of the province. There are still long waiting lists for surgery, both

elective and nonelective, in most urban centres in Ontario. Over the course of the last few months, indeed the last year, we have seen many examples of that, from cardiovascular surgery to orthopaedic surgery. The province is still experiencing a severe shortage of chronic care beds throughout the province.

All these are problems of accessibility, yet Bill 94—misnamed, in my opinion, the Health Care Accessibility Act, the act that banned extra-billing—did nothing to alleviate any of these problems. In fact, in many respects, it has only intensified those problems.

The bill has removed private funding from a health care system desperately in need of money. It has also served to remove the built-in incentive for cost efficiency. We are now experiencing a health care cost crisis and the government blames everyone but itself for the problem. Over the past few months, the members have heard the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Premier blame the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Nurses' Association for problems in the health care system, but never once do they question whether they should be blaming themselves.

We talk about a well-managed, cost-efficient system for hospitals. Do we have a well-managed, cost-efficient system in the Ministry of Health? We have received many studies from this government, some still ongoing, and we have spent many of the taxpayers' dollars for these studies. What positive steps have been taken as a result of them?

I think this government has been primarily reactive, as I said, rather than proactive in responding to crises. The system has suffered as a result. I do not think we can rest on the laurels of past achievements in the health care system rather than pursuing continued excellence. Unfortunately, I think we have a health care strategy that sometimes has been more concerned with winning votes in election campaigns than providing responsible leadership.

What about the promises that were made in the 1985 election campaign? "We're going to eliminate OHIP premiums entirely. It's going to take time," they said. We have had time. It has been three years. Where is the response to that promise? "We're going to have a denticare program." That was a promise made in the 1985 election campaign also, I believe. I stand to be corrected; it might have been 1987. We are now at the end of 1988.

The government has thrown money in every direction in the health care system over the last two years to try to make everyone happy, yet it seems no single area has received enough money to really effect a change or make any beneficial impact. All we have to do is look at the cardiovascular surgery example. Over many months I stood in my place, the leader of the official opposition stood in his place and many other members on the opposition benches stood in their places raising questions about the waiting lists for cardiovascular surgery—particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, but in other areas of the province as well; for example, London. The waiting list in London, Ontario is just about as long as it is in Metropolitan Toronto.

We had a minister who stood in her place in this Legislature day after day, week after week, month after month, and insisted that there was absolutely nothing wrong with cardiovascular surgery in the province, that every patient who needed emergency cardiovascular surgery was being accommodated. We provided her day after day, week after week, month after month with specific examples of patients who were not being accommodated in emergency situations.

Just about every cardiovascular surgeon in Ontario will tell you that he or she has an average of one patient a month who dies while he or she is on the waiting list, either the short waiting list or the long-term waiting list. That is an average of 12 or 13 patients per cardiovascular surgeon a year. The government may think that is good enough. They may think that is not a problem. I do not think that is good enough and I think we can do better.

The minister finally responded after months of insisting there was no problem, absolutely none, by doing a complete flip. She came into the House one day and announced funding for the fourth cardiovascular surgery unit that we had been pressing for in this Legislature for many months, which her ministry committed itself to funding over four years ago. Originally, when we raised that aspect or that particular issue in the Legislature, she was going to send it back to the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council for its comment. That council had commented on this in 1983. The commitment was made by her ministry in 1984. We are in 1988.

Finally, she did a complete flip. I do not know how she could possibly not have been embarrassed, standing in her place announcing that she was now going to spend millions of dollars to correct the problem she had been saying for three months did not exist. Even after that money was

committed—and I do commend her for committing that funding for cardiovascular surgery—we have seen as recently as a week or two weeks ago, in this Legislature, more specific examples of patients still not being able to get on for cardiovascular surgery in the province, because there still is not the funding to supply adequate nursing staff to deal with those beds if the funding were there to make them open.

Therefore, I still think we have some very severe problems, even in that one specific area that has been addressed by the minister, after some urging by the opposition and the media, I might say, for several months. I think good government requires the courage to make tough decisions: to say no when no has to be said, to choose between competing interests so that spending is also investing.

Health care is an area that requires careful, ongoing attention. The system cannot be allowed to stagnate. It must progress as societal needs dictate. Progress means continual maintenance and upgrading of facilities and technology. It means dedication to research and capital improvement. I think successive Conservative governments in this province realized that. They were not always perfect, but they were not afraid to target their money for that purpose. They were not afraid to plan for the future.

In the fiscal year 1983-84, a government led by Bill Davis allocated \$107 million in capital funding for hospitals, a 98 per cent increase over the previous year. In 1984-85, capital funding increased again by 79 per cent. Since this government assumed power, capital funding has barely kept pace with inflation, despite the fact we have been experiencing a record economic boom over the past three years, the likes of which this province has never seen. While the minister's predecessor announced intentions to allocate \$850 million in capital funding, he forgot to put on the headline in the *Toronto Star* that accompanied the announcement how many years this was going to be over.

The president of the Ontario Hospital Association stated before the public accounts committee that \$5 billion must be invested in capital expenditures over that period of time to keep the hospital system at a level of excellence, and \$5 billion is a long way from \$850 million.

The Minister of Health has severely criticized hospitals for running at deficit, despite the fact that after being asked on two occasions to resubmit their budgets without a deficit, some 50 per cent of the hospitals in the province of Ontario still filed their projected budgets with

deficits. I think they were trying to tell the Minister of Health something. That was, that they did not feel they could perform the services they are expected to perform, to the residents they are expected to serve, without projecting those deficits.

1650

I do not think that a Minister of Health should ever be satisfied with ways of improving the system. I think one way to improve the system is to ensure the transfer payments are at an appropriate level to permit hospitals to provide the types of services they are expected to provide. As Mr. Cunningham has pointed out, for the last three years hospitals have been receiving, in the Ontario Hospital Association's view, inadequate operational funding, less than the rate of inflation in some instances. I must say that everybody knows, I think, that this is an ongoing dispute between the ministry and hospitals. What hospitals refer to as the hospital or medical rate of inflation is not necessarily what we think of as the rate of inflation from the consumer index or wherever.

I also take exception to announcements that are made saying that hospitals will receive an inflation operational rate of 6.9 per cent. When you get into the statement and read the fine print, what it really says is that hospitals will receive 4.4 per cent. If they have this program, that program, this program and this program, they might be able to bump that up to 6.9 per cent. Yet we have a minister who just stood in her place a few minutes ago and told us that every hospital in the province cannot be all things to all people. That is fine, I accept that; but the Treasurer should not try and tell people he is giving them a 6.9 per cent increase when he knows very well that what he is giving them is 4.4 per cent. There are only a very few hospitals in the province that will get 6.9.

I think that this has been the same story for the past three years. We have a government that has announced the establishment of the Scott task force, a committee to study utilization of the health care system. This is a joint venture with the Ontario Medical Association. It does not include nurses, who are the primary providers of health care services in the province of Ontario.

I think that, although there are shortcomings with the Scott task force, it has the potential of producing some realistic options. However, I think that when a government indicates that it is already putting the blame on doctors for soaring health care costs in Ontario, and repeatedly attacks the medical profession for the amount of

billings going to Ontario health insurance plan, the cost of services and increases in fee schedules, I would not think that this is the appropriate way to go about having a co-operative, consultative approach to health care costs and their problems in the province.

The Provincial Auditor's report on the Ontario health insurance plan suggests that perhaps doctors are not to blame. The auditor, as I am sure the minister is aware, made some startling revelations in the public accounts committee in the past few months. OHIP computers list 24.68 million participants on file; too bad the population of Ontario is only 9.16 million. The OHIP computer system is unable to identify cases of claimed hospital admission after death, nor can it pick out such irregularities as hysterectomy claims for men; approximately \$50 million of OHIP claims were paid out on behalf of patients whose coverage had lapsed; many physicians listed on OHIP files were not eligible to practice in the province while others had several OHIP numbers. Forty million dollars was disbursed for out-of-country hospital payments in 1986 alone.

The response we get when that question is asked in the Legislature is, "We are currently reviewing our computer system." That is funny. That is the same response that the minister's predecessor gave for two and a half years. I guess they have been reviewing the computer system in OHIP for three years now. When are they going to do something about it? It seems to be the response to every question that is asked: "We are studying it. We have this study out there. We have that study out there." We have all kinds of studies, hundreds of recommendations, but we do not do anything concrete about implementing any of them.

I think it is useful to point out that less than 16 per cent of the cost of OHIP is covered by the collection of OHIP premiums today in any event.

OHIP is not the only area of excessive administrative costs. Going back to the estimates for the 1987-88 fiscal year, increases in program administration costs range from a low of 13.3 per cent at OHIP to a whopping 238 per cent in the community health program. This is the same government that wants to give hospitals and expects them to live at 4.4 per cent, doctors at 1.75 per cent, but administration costs of a low of 13.3 per cent and a high of 238 per cent are apparently very acceptable.

Again this year, we see an average increase in program administration costs in the estimates in the neighbourhood of 16 per cent. Hospitals can live on four per cent, doctors can live on less than

two per cent, but for administration, the bureaucrats in the Ministry of Health, 16 per cent is quite acceptable. I think this government has given a new meaning to administrative extravagance and waste.

The public service staffing levels at the Ministry of Health government offices have increased substantially over the last three years; I would like to know by how many hundred people and at what cost. I think the estimated cost is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$25 million and probably in excess of some 600 people.

It seemed that when this government first came to power, its answer to every problem was to set up a task force or a commission to study a problem. Five studies and \$1.6 million later, the government is still no closer to solving the problems in the health care system.

Many of the studies recommended greater emphasis on health promotion and community care. Let's just take the Podborski report for a minute. The bottom-line recommendation of that report was no less than one per cent of the total health care budget, and we have just had the minister tell us that she is quite proud that it is \$13 billion this year. What is one per cent of \$13 billion? It certainly is not the \$1.5 million that was announced by the minister in the House a few weeks ago with respect to health promotion and prevention. One per cent is much more substantial than any commitment this government has given to health promotion and prevention.

I think the Premier has paid lipservice to recommendations of several of these task forces on numerous occasions: the speech from the throne, two budgets and during the election campaign when he promised a \$100-million health innovation fund to be directed towards programs emphasizing community care as opposed to institutionalized care.

What has happened to the \$100-million commitment? I think we are entitled to know how much money has been spent so far and for what, and what results we have from the money we have spent.

We have a total health care budget of between \$12 billion and \$13 billion a year. A few million dollars has been dedicated to community health services such as home care, nursing services and elderly persons' centres. The government spends somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10 times that amount on institutional care despite repeated promises to shift its emphasis.

I am not advocating a cut in hospital funding. I am, however, suggesting that scarce hospital

space could be more appropriately directed towards acute care patients in Ontario. The Ontario Hospital Association itself has stated a desire to be relieved of the need to care for patients who would be better looked after in a community care setting.

The people of Ontario are all too familiar with the problem of shortages in chronic care beds. This situation would be relieved somewhat by a greater emphasis on and availability of community-based services. It may be easier to institutionalize our elderly, but it is neither socially compassionate nor fiscally responsible if institutionalization is not necessary.

1700

Today, we have an imbalance in the system and the government has compounded an already difficult situation by directing the biggest block of finite new resources to the construction of institutional beds, while providing very little to expand community-based services, thus increasing the imbalance. We need additional chronic care beds to relieve the blockage of acute care beds, but what of the blockage of chronic care beds with patients who could be at home if appropriate community-based services were available?

In this province, 10.8 per cent of our population is over the age of 65, and by the year 2001 that figure stands to grow by 55 per cent. Yet there are few services which are geared solely to quality of life for seniors, whether that be health maintenance or a dignified lifestyle. Instead, we continue to choose to institutionalize our elderly. While there are many individuals who require institutional care, there are also many others who, for lack of another place to be, find themselves hospitalized. These seniors are unnecessarily removed from society, stripped of their usefulness, in many cases, as human beings. Surely there is a better way, a more compassionate way of treating our seniors, a way that will make it possible for all seniors to live a healthy, independent, dignified and useful life. A greater emphasis on community-based health care can make these goals a reality.

This province should be investing a great deal of its resources in its people by funding sheltered housing and groups homes, by providing programs such as daily outpatient therapy and income support that would permit seniors to stay in their own homes or with their families rather than be confined to an institutional care setting. There is no reason, in many cases, that hospitalization should not be temporary, resulting in a discharge, yet the tendency seems to be towards

permanent residency. I think that this custodial approach must change. That change begins with the change in the nature and direction of government funding.

A perfect example is the attitude towards Alzheimer's disease. Currently, an estimated 300,000 Canadians suffer from Alzheimer's, and this year over 10,000 of them will die from it. There are thousands of others who, while they do not have the disease, are still affected by it. I am referring to the families of Alzheimer's patients, the people who must struggle to cope with the realities of the problem. One family in three will see a patient fall victim to Alzheimer's, and it is these family members who will have to make some very tough and difficult decisions indeed.

Sadly, we are not a lot closer today in determining the cause of this sickness than we were in 1906, when it was first described. I think Alzheimer's has emerged as one of society's most crippling and emotionally draining diseases, yet our health care delivery system is ill prepared to cope with the very unique needs of these victims and their families.

Again, I think government has paid lipservice to the problem but has done very little to offer real support. Perhaps instead of wasting millions of dollars on administrative inefficiency, the government could inject a few dollars into this much neglected area.

There are other examples, I think, in areas where the government has embraced a good idea and then failed to carry it through to its proper conclusion.

Women's health centres: The Powell report made it clear that not all women in the province had access to the same level of service. Many women in remote or rural areas have been unable to receive a variety of services which are readily and easily available to women in urban centres.

After a year of study, the Minister of Health announced her intention to fund multipurpose women's health clinics associated with hospitals. The clinics would provide numerous services, including sexual assault treatment, low-risk birth centres, abortion counselling and family planning.

At first the minister refused to make public the location of these centres but after responding to questions in the House a few days later, she announced the location of the first one. The minister announced that two would be situated in Toronto and two in Hamilton. A further announcement revealed that birthing centres would be established in Scarborough, Brampton, Ottawa and Thunder Bay.

Certainly we welcome these services, but surely the objective was missed. The objective was to increase accessibility for women in remote communities. That objective has not been met, with the exception of the Thunder Bay centre.

These facilities have been located in major urban centres where services already exist. I think once again the government has demonstrated and failed to properly address the problem of accessibility, especially those associated in this instance with geography and supply. It might have made more sense to establish centres in more northern and eastern areas of the province where women are often denied certain services simply because they do not exist.

Let us go to the issue of nursing staff levels, another one I do not think the government has paid enough attention to. The extent of the problem became very well known last December around Christmastime when women were being flown around the province and newly born babies shuffled off to Buffalo because the perinatal and neonatal units of Ontario hospitals were not equipped to handle the situation.

Responding to questioning in the Legislature on several occasions, the minister has come up with different answers with respect to whether there is or is not a nursing shortage in Ontario. Those answers have almost ranged from "There's no nursing shortage whatsoever" to "They're entirely to blame" for the problems I just reiterated with respect to pregnant women and newly born babies being shuffled out of the province and throughout different areas of the province because there were not enough qualified nurses to handle the situation.

The minister has also told us from time to time that the nursing shortage is a cyclical problem; almost like lemmings, I suppose: every seven years they all gather at Toronto General Hospital and jump off the top. I do not think that is a very appropriate or responsible response from a minister of the crown. There either is a nursing shortage problem or there is not. If there is a nursing shortage problem, which I and many other people including the nursing profession itself believe there is, then the minister should be taking some very direct, concrete and specific steps to deal with the problem.

It is not good enough to stand up in this House and say we have four reports now. They all have recommendations ranging from about one dozen to two dozen. Many of them are the same. How many have been acted on? How many of those recommendations—from the Ontario Nurses'

Association, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, the minister's own ministry response and the Hospital Council for Metropolitan Toronto, all on the same problem, many of which conclusions are exactly the same—have been acted on?

What specific steps has the minister taken to address every one of those recommendations, and which ones of those recommendations has she done absolutely nothing about? I think that is a very important question. It is not enough to stand up and say that the nursing profession in Ontario is among the most highly paid in the country. That is not answering the question. We often hear that in question period. Later during these estimates I am going to read off many questions I have asked the Minister of Health personally in the last year and have never had an answer to.

I am glad she gave us the commitment at the outset of the estimates process that we would have answers to each and every question asked before the estimates conclude. I fully expect that. I do not want a cue-card answer, I do not want a general answer and I do not want, "Well, we're studying that," or, "This task force studied this," or "That task force is going to study that." I want a specific answer to a specific question and I expect to finally get those answers during this estimates process.

1710

Mr. McCague: Don't hold your breath.

Mr. Eves: Unfortunately, the member is probably correct.

Is there a nursing shortage in the province or not? Does the minister agree with the studies of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and the Ontario Nurses' Association or not, and if she does, what steps is she taking to address every one of their recommendations? If she does not agree with their recommendations, then why does she not have the courage to say so? Why does she not say where she differs from their opinion and why she is not going to address recommendations 6, 7, 8, 9, or whatever the case may be, and is going to address the others and here is what she is going to do about it?

There has to be a reason why there is a severe and imminent shortage in nursing manpower levels and why 35 per cent of trained nurses work part-time, seven per cent on a casual basis only and another 18.4 per cent have left the profession altogether.

I have listed the four different studies or reports we have had about nursing in Ontario, yet I increasingly find a reluctance on the part of the

minister and the government to include staff nurses in their deliberations or on committees. After some wrangling and harassing—I suppose you could describe it that way—in question period, begrudgingly the minister, from time to time, will do something about appointing a staff nurse here or there. I still do not appreciate the unwillingness on the part of either the minister or the ministry to include the largest group of health care providers in Ontario as an important part of deliberations on any aspect of the health care system.

To say, as she often does and has been quoted as doing many times in Hansard, that she deals with the leaders of the profession or the leadership of the profession is simply not good enough. I am not a nurse, but I am a member of the bar in Ontario, and I can tell her there is a big difference between somebody who goes to the registry office of the courthouse everyday and somebody who does not practise law on a daily basis.

If you really want to get to the root of a problem in the legal system, you talk to the men and women who do it on a daily basis, not the people who are in some administrative capacity or do not know what it is like to work in the trenches day in and day out. Surely that is as true in the nursing profession as it is in any other profession or occupation in society, and I do not know why anybody cannot get that through his head.

Mr. Black: Doesn't that make sense to you to meet with the leadership?

Mr. Eves: The leadership of the ONA is Glenna Cole Slattery.

Mr. Black: And so the minister met with the leadership.

Mr. Eves: No, I think the minister should talk to the leaders. That is a great suggestion by the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black), and I do not know why his minister will not follow up on it.

I do not think there is any global solution to the crisis in health care funding, but I do not think the problem has to be exacerbated by government incompetence and mismanagement. I think this government has failed to initiate long-term planning and an assessment process. It pays lipservice to those things. It does study after study, task force after task force; but whenever the studies of the task force finally come in, after we finally get blessed with their being tabled in the House, the minister and the ministry do not act on them; or if they do, they act in a very general way but do not take any specific steps

which, more often than not, are recommended right in the report of the task force itself.

I think instead the government has decided to choose a system of crisis management, government by headline. They deal with crisis situations as they arise. We can think of many problems that we have talked about in this Legislature over the course of the last year: cardiovascular surgery, perinatal and neonatal services in Ontario, ambulance services.

Unfortunately, we have to have some people die because they cannot get adequate response or proper response from ambulance services before the minister cares about ambulance services. That seems to be the way we go. We have to have babies flown to Winnipeg, flown to Buffalo, flown to other areas of the province before the minister becomes concerned about perinatal or neonatal services in Ontario. We have to have people die on the waiting list for cardiovascular surgery before the minister or the government becomes concerned about cardiovascular surgery cases in Ontario. We have to rattle off in question period specific examples of people waiting for years for orthopaedic surgery before we have a minister or a government concerned about that waiting list. I do not think that is a responsible, appropriate way to govern, especially the health care system, in any jurisdiction.

We looked at the example we raised in question period about medical waste. Medical waste supposedly had been solved. The government spent \$15 million a year before the question was asked in question period, which was almost a year ago now. Between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environment, they had solved the problem. There was no more problem with medical waste. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and the Minister of Health—I believe it was this minister's predecessor—made that quite clear: "We spent the \$15 million. There is no problem."

Why then do we keep on finding medical waste turning up? The problem was solved. They spent \$15 million to solve it. What happened to the \$15 million? Was it not appropriately spent? Why does the problem still exist?

I think there are many parts of our health care system that are desperately underfunded and I think there are others that are overfunded. There is a justifiable cause for greater cost efficiency in many areas, but there are other areas where a cost cutback could have a very detrimental effect on the level of care and service administered. That is why an across-the-board or global approach will

not work and why both spending and cost-cutting must be carefully targeted.

Advanced treatment techniques such as perinatal care, new medications, new technology and equipment carry price tags that are much higher than the methods they replace. I think we appreciate that, yet if our health care system is to provide the level of service and expertise that the people of this province deserve, we must somehow find the revenue to pay for some of these items.

In areas of administration, I think the financial statements and the auditors' reports all indicate room for improvement. I think it is ridiculous that the increase in administrative costs should outpace the increases in spending on the actual health care services themselves.

There are likely other areas where costs can be reduced. It is up to the government to work with the providers of health care services to identify those areas and seek ways of improvement: a consultative process, not a confrontational approach.

While the government again pays lipservice to a consultative, co-operative approach to the health care system—and we have heard the Minister of Health, the Premier and other members of the government say that on numerous occasions—I do not think the approach it is taking with respect to the OMA is particularly consultative or co-operative, I do not think the approach it is taking to the ONA is particularly co-operative or consultative and I do not think the approach it took to the OHA over these last several months is very co-operative or consultative, either.

Sending an inspector into the Cambridge Memorial Hospital after the government has announced it is consulting with them, when it does not even bother to tell them about it until after it has done it as an accomplished fact, is not very co-operative. It is not very consultative, either. Just because the minister did not like the results of the report which she funded—it was her report—I do not think that is any excuse for such an attitude or approach to what I consider to be a very serious situation.

Trying to hold out one administrator as the fall guy or fall person for the shortcomings of the system I do not think is a very co-operative or consultative approach to health care in Ontario, either. I do not think a deputy minister who says he is going to have a hospital administrator's head on a platter is a very co-operative, consultative approach to the health care system in Ontario. That is reportedly what the deputy

minister has said. If the deputy minister was working for me, he would not be a deputy minister for very long if, in fact, he did say those words. If he did not, I would appreciate it if he would clear up the record once and for all, because there are people who were present when supposedly he made these remarks, and I would like to get the air on that matter cleared. I think it has been a cloud hanging over this whole issue for several months now.

I do not think that is a very responsible approach to government. If you are going to work with somebody in a co-operative, consultative way, there are many better methods to do it than those demonstrated in the case of many hospital deficits and the funding process that has been demonstrated by this government over the last few months.

1720

I think the government should be searching for alternative sources of funding for the system. They eliminated a source of funding, albeit a small one, with Bill 94, but I think the realities of what that bill did—not just in a financial aspect but what it did to the morale of the system—is now just being felt. I think it has produced some unfortunate financial results. I think it has produced some rationing of services. There is a deterioration of capital equipment, which has been identified by the Ontario Hospital Association. There is an increase in OHIP billings, an extra \$300 million, or 12 per cent, above the budgeted amount. The whole rationale for Bill 94, as I recall, was that the government would save money. It was going to get \$50 million. It was going to save money, not spend more money. That was the rationale behind Bill 94.

The Treasurer wishes only to rely upon the taxpayer for the revenue of the health care system. We have a government that has promised to eliminate OHIP premiums in Ontario. We do not see any move towards that end, but he has already increased sales tax to eight per cent. He has increased it as of the first or second week in May, whenever it was that he read his budget this year. We still have not debated these tax bills, by the way. It is November now, is it not? We are going to wait till the federal election is over to be bothered to talk about a Liberal government raising sales tax.

While we are on that tack, let's get it straight because it galls me to read the front page of the *Globe and Mail* of two Saturdays ago, where the Treasurer of Ontario is reported to have said that the federal government is introducing a 17 per cent national sales tax. He knows very well that

that simply is not true. The federal government is talking about a nine per cent tax, and he is responsible for the other eight per cent. He knows it and he does not even have the intestinal fortitude to bring the bill into the House that he introduced in May.

We are now in November of this year, and he is going to conveniently wait. Just let me make a prediction: We will not see that bill before the floor of this Legislature until after the federal election is over, and guess why?

Interjections.

Mr. Eves: They are going to proceed with their sales tax bill, regardless of what the feds do, and they know that.

Interjections.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Eves: I see we have struck a nerve over there, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Furlong: Well, you've got to be factual.

Mr. Eves: That is factual. Their bill is to increase sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent, regardless of what the federal government is doing. That is their bill. Taxpayers of Ontario can pay more, right? I hope the people in Muskoka and Georgian Bay remember that. The member does not think there is any problem. He has had the best economic boom in the province's history for the last three years, and he has to raise the sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent. I am glad we finally got that on the record.

Mr. Furlong: We inherited such a mess, what could we do?

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Eves: The Treasurer said when he took over the Treasury that he was quite frankly surprised to learn how well run the Treasury had been and what good shape the province's economy was in.

Mr. Furlong: Except for school boards, hospitals—

Mr. Eves: You had better talk to your Treasurer; he does not agree with you—at least, he did not three years ago.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Liberal times are good times.

Mr. Eves: Leave it to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) to add some levity to the situation.

Mr. Chairman, I have got away from my topic. I will try to get back to it. The interjections somewhat provoked me on to this other vein.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Parry Sound has the floor and would like to speak

without interruption. The member for Parry Sound will address his remarks through the chair, please.

Mr. Eves: I will try to remember that, Mr. Chairman.

I think there are other sources of income that the ministry and the government could consider. I think of private insurance networks and better tax incentives to encourage private sector funding of hospital projects and research programs. Some sort of private participation in paying for health care is not beyond the realm of consideration. Why should the average taxpayer in Ontario be subsidizing the rich taxpayer in the province?

I think health professionals are in the best position to know what the problems with the health care system are. I think some of the utilization task forces and committees the minister has appointed are a step in the right direction, but they are a step in the right direction only if the minister and the government pay more than lip service to their recommendations and actually act upon their recommendations. The health care field is a very dynamic one. It is one that is difficult because it has constantly changing demands. I know there are many problems in the health care system, but surely there are just as many solutions if we work together to resolve them.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Did you say one of them was pay as you go?

Mr. Eves: No, I did not say that. I said there was perhaps some room for some private money in the health care system in Ontario.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Expand on that. What does that mean?

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Some hon. members: A means test?

Mr. Eves: No, that does not mean that at all. There are all kinds of things I can think of that the government could do to do that. These are my opinions, not necessarily those of my leader and my party; I think you have to have ideas, I think you have to be thinking about these things. I do not think you can just go on with the system because it has been in place for 100 years: "Let's just keep on. Let's see, we will do the estimates now for 1988-89. When next year comes up we will do them for 1989-90, and then we will do them for 1990-91, because that is the way we have done them for 100 years. We will just keep on doing them that way." I do not think that that is an appropriate response.

Mr. Reycraft: Sounds like a good argument for a new standing committee.

Mr. Eves: Very good point.

I think that with the cost of the health care system today and the demands and stress put on the health care system today, the government is going to have to find some innovative solutions. I do not see anything wrong with providing tax incentives to people who want to donate moneys to schools and hospitals, for example. I do not see anything wrong with taking a municipal debenture type of idea that you see in some jurisdictions and applying that to hospitals and schools with people getting a guaranteed rate of return on their money and not paying any tax on it. I do not see anything wrong with a number of initiatives in that fashion.

However, let's get back to the estimates.

Mr. Offer: Okay.

Mr. Eves: That took a lot of convincing.

Mr. Offer: You'd better hurry; you've got only 10 hours.

Mr. Eves: Well, luckily for the member, I will not be standing up for 10 hours.

I just want to go through the estimates book for this year and point out what I think are some points of interest and raise some questions that I hope the minister will have the opportunity to respond to before the end of the estimates process. I am sure the critic for the official opposition will do the same thing on Thursday.

Mr. Furlong: Where is he?

Mr. Eves: He is out campaigning municipally today.

Interjection.

Mr. Eves: Oh, I do not think so. He was here earlier, during question period.

There are a couple of questions that come to my mind when I am looking at the estimates book on page 7. One is the increase in personnel services, an increase of approximately 18 per cent. I would like to know where that is going and what services are being increased under the personnel aspect, vote 1801, item 4.

Item 12, health innovation fund: As I mentioned during my remarks, \$10 million was allotted for the health innovation fund this year. I would like to have some explanation of what that money is being spent for and where it is going.

Page 8 of the book says, "Development of formal and informal liaison with health interest groups, consumer groups, the general public and other ministries in the government." As I indicated earlier in my remarks, I think it is very important for the minister and the Ministry of

Health to dialogue very closely with people in the health care professions. I know it is easy to say we should be dealing with the president of this association or the chairman of that association or group or body, but if we are going to get a real understanding of what the health care system is and what problems health care providers face, I think we have to sit down and talk to the people who deliver that service on a daily basis.

1730

I would like to know how many members of the general public the minister has met with during the past year. Perhaps she could provide us with a list of those.

"Administrative services to support the review and appeal boards under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health." One question I have is, does the main office administer the Ontario health insurance plan?

Turning to page 9, main office, salaries and wages, I would like to know how many people are on the minister's staff and what their salary ranges are. I also note that the salary and wages aspect on page 9 is up approximately 14 per cent from 1987-88. I would like to try to get an explanation of that.

Under "Significant changes," at the bottom of page 9: "Increased activity of psychiatric review boards." I am sure the minister will recall the case in London, Ontario. I would like to know what the findings of that case were, as they were indeed promised to us on several occasions by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), and perhaps by the Minister of Health herself, but I cannot remember that so I will not say that is a given.

"Additional staff for French-language services." Out of that increase, which is \$190,200, perhaps we could have a breakdown of where that staff is located.

"Cost escalation, \$147,400." Going through various items throughout the estimates, I note the term "cost escalation." I would like to know what that term means so that I will not ask the question for every single vote.

On page 11, we are into financial services. Again, I note that salaries and wages are up 5.7 per cent from 1987-88. The two salary and wage items that we have come across so far, main office and financial services, are up 14 per cent in one, the main office, and 5.7 per cent in the other, as opposed to the 4.4 per cent, I believe, that the government expects everybody else to operate under during this fiscal year.

Again, on page 13, under supply and office services, we have the term "cost escalation," \$146,700.

Salaries and wages are up 14.2 per cent under personnel services. I already made a remark about that, I believe, at the outset of my remarks. French-language services under this aspect are up \$244,400.

There is an item here called "transfer of employment equity," \$359,000. Perhaps we could have an explanation of that item from the ministry as well.

Information services: salaries and wages up 14.7 per cent. With respect to services, which is a significant part of information services, I note that the cost is up 46.7 per cent. There may very well be a good explanation for that. One thought that came to my mind is that perhaps this is acquired immune deficiency syndrome spending. Perhaps we could have a clarification of that.

While we are on that particular subject, as indeed we were a little bit in ministerial statements and responses this afternoon, I would really sincerely ask the minister to consider the operation of a needle exchange program in Ontario, but I would not be in favour of needle exchange unless she is also going to consider people such as diabetics, who of course rely on and need needles supplied to them on a daily basis for treatment.

Under legal services, which is on page 21, I note under "Significant changes" additional legal staff in the amount of \$100,000. Perhaps we could have an explanation of why we need additional legal staff in the amount of \$100,000.

It is nice to note that the audit services branch on page 23 is limiting its salary and wages increase to 4.4 per cent.

On page 24, ministry administration: under research, as I believe it is referred to, it talks at some length about the underserved area program responding to needs of communities. How many doctors have been placed? Where have they been placed? For how long? I think these things are important, especially seeing as how we sometimes get conflicting signals from the Premier and some of his ministers from time to time.

I believe I asked the Premier a question in question period some months ago. I asked him if he or his government were considering dictating to medical practitioners where they could practice in Ontario, limiting their numbers. His response was that definitely not, that was not being considered by his government. I would like to know whether that has changed.

"Research and planning provides analysis of major long-range trends affecting the health care system." I think an important trend and problem

we have in the health care system is the nursing situation in the province—or lack of nursing. I think the RNAO's report is appropriately named, "Sorry, No Care Available Due to Nursing Shortage."

While we are on the nursing shortage, I think there are some very clear recommendations contained in this report. It is a report with which I am sure the minister is very familiar. There are 14 very specific recommendations. I would like the minister to respond to each and every one of those 14 specific recommendations and tell me what she or her ministry or government plans to do about them.

I think the last fact in the conclusion part of this report is a very appropriate and informative one called A Clear Choice: "Our health care system has a clear choice. We can spend \$168 million over the next 10 years replacing the estimated 6,000 additional nurses who will leave the profession or we can implement appropriate and less costly reforms and incentives to retain them within the system."

There are many very specific recommendations the nurses have and I am sure the minister is familiar with their proposals with respect to reimbursing nurses for their experience and for their expertise. Self-staffing has been a recommendation which has been around for some time and discussed for some time. I think the difference in the rate between a nurse who is just starting and one who has been practising his or her profession for a great number of years is really startling to the average individual. I know it was to me. I think a lot of these things can be done which will improve nursing as a profession in Ontario and certainly improve the morale in the nursing profession in Ontario.

Go to page 27 of the estimates, research, vote 1801, item 9, under "significant changes." Under "transfer payment," we have a cost escalation, as they refer to it, of \$1,054,900. Perhaps we could have an explanation of that rather significant amount and what it represents.

1740

On page 32, I must congratulate the minister for having proceeded with the Muskoka and Parry Sound District Health Council. That was an item the minister's predecessor and I had discussed informally and formally on several occasions. I think it is a very practical solution for the people of both Muskoka and Parry Sound, and alleviating a lot of the fears of local people was achieved.

On page 34, under the health innovation fund, we have already mentioned that amount. We

would like an explanation of that \$10-million item.

On page 35, the Lieutenant Governor's board of review, again we would like a report of the findings in the London case. Several of my colleagues have asked, particularly the critics of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, on several occasions for a review of the day pass program.

On page 43, item 4, which is clinical education, under salaries for interns and residents, I would like to know how many residency positions have been cut back. I believe it was the stated policy of the minister's predecessor to cut back—I am doing this from memory now—some 200 positions over the space of four or five years. I would like to know why we are cutting back in residency positions in the province of Ontario. I would like to know why we are not increasing some, especially for some specialties where we experience shortages in the health care profession in Ontario.

We come to page 44, and we are talking about hospital and related facilities.

Mr. Harris: That is a horrendous page, that page 44.

Mr. Eves: That could be a bad page; you are quite right.

I think we have gone into the Ontario Hospital Association and hospital deficits and budgets at some length earlier in my remarks. I just want to reiterate that, as I am sure the minister is aware, the OHA has a much different view of what inflation is for hospitals and health care from the standard rate of inflation governed by the consumer index every year, or by Statistics Canada.

I would also like to refresh the minister's memory about an issue we talked about just briefly in question period about a week ago, and that is a post-polio clinic here in Toronto. I would ask the minister sincerely to look into the funding of that clinic, because there are a significant number of Ontarians who need those services, and obviously they are going to have to go elsewhere, be it to other provinces. I believe that there is one other clinic. I do not want to disagree with the leader of the official opposition, because I believe he said this is the only one in Canada. I believe there is one in Edmonton as well. There are several in the United States, but I do not think it would be too cost-efficient to send thousands of people to other jurisdictions, be it the United States or another province, for treatment several thousand miles away when perhaps we could do it very effectively right here in the province of Ontario.

On page 45, under institutional health, vote 1802, I would just like to bring to the minister's attention again the differential in per diems paid to nursing homes as opposed to homes for the aged in Ontario.

There is an item on page 46 under "significant changes." Again we are in nursing home services, new initiatives: \$3,641,900. Perhaps we could have an explanation of what those new initiatives are.

Mr. Harris: That is for American consultants to study North Bay. It is part of their free trade commitment.

Mr. Eves: I would hardly think so.

On page 52 we find emergency health services. I really think that the ministry should be considering some sort of across-the-board standards with respect to ambulance services across the province. They are very inconsistent, and I suppose that is understandable, with the diverse nature of Ontario and its geography; I understand that. On the other hand, there have been several instances that have led to questions during question period and, unfortunately, as I said, it is usually somebody's misfortune that leads to these issues being aired either in the Legislature or by the media. I would think that is one area where the Ministry of Health could be looking into some change and improvement and some sort of uniform standard expected province-wide.

I also want to speak just very briefly about the different treatment of employees under the different ambulance programs throughout the province of Ontario. The ambulance attendants in the Parry Sound area—it is a service run by the hospital—are nonunionized, and they feel that they are very discriminated against because of the fact that they are not unionized. They feel that their rate of pay and their increases are somewhat less than those of their unionized counterparts. They prefer not to be unionized but feel that that is the only way they are going to get adequate compensation and treatment from the hospital and funding, and they feel they are going to have to consider that alternative. I have written to the minister and to the hospital on various occasions in the past on that specific issue.

The northern travel program is one in which I hope that many more of my constituents can participate after April 1, 1989, after the commitment of the Premier and the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) to bring Parry Sound district into northern Ontario. However, there is—

[Applause]

Mr. Eves: However—I said, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay)—there is a slight problem in that the distance is 250 kilometres. Most of my constituents would fall under that criterion, but there are some constituents in the extreme southerly part of the riding who would probably be in the neighbourhood of 230 to 225 kilometres, and I would just ask the minister to take that under consideration so that she can provide equality of treatment to all residents of the same geographical territorial district and, indeed, the same riding.

On page 87 we find health insurance and benefits. We have made the point on several occasions, as indeed have several other individuals, about the number of the residents in the province of Ontario versus the number of people on the books, if you will, of the OHIP system. I would like some sort of explanation of how the ministry's computer review is coming along. It really does seem to people on this side of the House, quite sincerely, that when we get the same response for three years from two different ministers—and I know that she has not been there that long—it does get a little bit frustrating at times. Perhaps she could give us an update as to where we are with computer review.

I would like to know what thoughts she or her ministry have given to a smart-card system, which I think could alleviate a lot of the problems, quite frankly, in the health care system from the viewpoint of the patient as well as from that of physicians providing service. I think it could be very useful with respect to the drug-cost problems we have in Ontario. I think it could be very useful in controlling any abuse of any of those aspects of the system. Wherever you have a system, let's face it, there is going to be some abuse. Thankfully, it is not anywhere near most of the people using the system or providing the services, but I think those checks and balances should be there. It leads to a much more cost-efficient system on the whole.

1750

I would like to point out to the Minister of Health that there were several questions placed in Orders and Notices with respect to explanations for increases in expenditures to which the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) responded, questions 142 to 265 inclusive. To quote the minister's answer:

"Questions 142 to 265 all pertain to expenditures which have taken place, or are planned to take place, covering the three fiscal years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89. To attempt to

answer all these questions would not only be extremely costly and time-consuming for the staff of all the ministries concerned but, more important, would be undermining the established procedures for the conduct of business in this House.

"The detail being asked of each ministry with regard to expenditures which have already occurred should be raised at the time the public accounts committee examines the accounts for the ministry concerned. Questions with regard to increases or decreases in budget allocations should be raised during the review of each ministry's estimates, for which ample time is normally set aside to cover the questions now being raised.

"Each minister has been provided with a copy of all questions directed to his ministry. These questions may be considered in the estimates for each ministry."

The questions are on the order paper for this minister's ministry, and I would ask that her officials perhaps could provide us two answers for the four questions that relate to the Ministry of Health on the order paper in that regard.

I would like, in the few short moments we have left—

Mr. Mahoney: They might be short to you.

Mr. Eves: That was not very nice. It may be true, but it is not nice.

I would like to reiterate several of the issues that have been raised in question period. I have copies of Hansard going back to November 17, 1987. Questions have been raised during question period, by myself of the Minister of Health, which I think are very serious questions or I would not have raised them during question periods, with respect to the health care system in Ontario today.

With all due respect—and I mean with all due respect—we all know how sometimes in question period the game is played or is not played, both by members of the opposition and government ministers as well. But I really think a lot of these questions deserve very specific answers. They are usually with respect to a particular individual or group of individuals who are having a serious problem in the health care system, and I really think that specific answers in many instances are required and indeed deserved by the people who are experiencing those difficulties.

I will not read them all into the record today. I will await the minister's and the ministry's responses to a number of questions I have already raised. I am sure there are other people, not only my colleagues in our party but the official

opposition as well, who will have questions they will want to raise and time they will want to spend during the estimates process.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Not today. I don't think they are going to raise any today.

Mr. Eves: But I do not think they are going to raise any today, as the Minister of Natural Resources quite accurately points out. It would be very difficult anyway. However, I am sure they will be here in full force on Thursday afternoon to have their say.

I did not know we were doing this tomorrow. Are we?

I would point out the question of physiotherapists' fees which I raised in the Legislature on December 16, 1987. That is one issue I have not had a chance to get on the record here this afternoon.

Mr. McCague: Do that on Thursday.

Mr. Eves: Do that on Thursday? It is not six o'clock yet.

There are questions I raised with respect to perinatal care in Ontario in the Legislature on January 5 and January 6, 1988, which I do not feel I got very direct answers to; the issue of nursing shortages, which I also raised in the Legislature on January 6; a question on January 7 with respect to abortion services that I never really did get a direct answer from the minister on. The minister will recall that day because that was the day the resolution of the government member for Nepean (Mr. Daigeler) was supposed to be debated in the Legislature and was not proceeded with on that particular day. I asked the minister if she agreed with that member's resolution. I never did get a direct answer whether she did or she did not.

Mr. Haggerty: You were not listening.

Mr. Eves: Oh, yes, I was listening. I even have her answer right here: "Let me respond to the member in this way and give him the information which will help in his confusion on this matter, and that is that the federal legislation requires that a therapeutic abortion committee of medical practitioners determine whether or not a therapeutic abortion is warranted."

That is all very interesting, but it has nothing to do with the question I asked, which was, does the minister agree with this member's resolution, yes or no? Telling me how the federal government goes about setting up therapeutic abortion committees is all very interesting, but it is not a direct response to the question I asked. I have many, many other examples of that throughout her ministry that I am sure I could go on and on at

some length and for some hours about, but I am just getting a few of these old chestnuts back out here. Perhaps she can provide some very direct answers to these during the Ministry of Health estimates.

I also indicated in my supplementary that I doubted that resolution ever bothered to actually come forward and, lo and behold, I was right. It never did actually come forward for debate in the Legislature. I asked her if she would dissociate herself from the political posturing of her member opposite. I never received a direct answer to that one either, so perhaps she could think about those while she and her officials are getting some answers for us.

I would not want to prolong this committee sitting any longer than necessary, so it being almost six o'clock, I will stop here.

On a point of order, I do want to clarify the record. I indicated that West Park Hospital post-polio had a treatment program and perhaps there was one in Edmonton as well. The Edmonton post-polio service, I am advised, has only a counselling service and does not provide any treatment, but there are 55 post-polio clinics in the United States.

On motion by Mr. Eves, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

TRITIUM SAFE HANDLING COURSES

379. Mr. Charlton: Will the Minister of Energy provide the House with a complete list of all of the training sessions on the safe handling of tritium put on by the Canadian Fusion Fuels Technology Project (CFFTP-AECL and Ontario Hydro), the dates of those sessions, all of the participants in each of those sessions and the dates of their attendance? [Tabled October 20, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Wong: Following are the complete lists of participants and dates of the training sessions on the safe handling of tritium put on by the Canadian Fusion Fuels Technology Project (CFFTP-AECL and Ontario Hydro).

**Tritium safe handling course
Registration list
September 1986**

Mr. Rene Cornelissen, Industrial Engineer, SCK/CEN, Department BRI, 200, Boeretang, B-2400 Mol, Belgium.

Mr. Raul Garza, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, L-358, PO Box 808, Livermore, California 94550.

Mr. Frank Guglielmi, Heavy Water Utilization, Ontario Hydro, A7 G11.

Mr. Brent Ives, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, PO Box 5508, L-474, Livermore, California 94550.

Dr. S. Merolli, Dipartimento Fusione e Applicazioni Laser, Associazione Euratom-ENEA Fusione, Centre ENEA, PO Box 65, I-00044, Frascati, Roma, Italy 06-9421041-671.

Dr. Guenther Luthardt, ZAFE, Nukem GmbH, Postfach 110080, D-6450 Hanau 11, West Germany.

Mr. C. Corato, ENEA Dis-Ara-Rad, Via V. Brancati 48, 00144 Roma Italy.

Mr. Dale Darling, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California, PO Box 5508, L-482, Livermore, California 94550.

Dr. N. J. Hoffman, Etec, PO Box 1449, Canoga Park, California 91304.

Mr. G. Korb, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, University of California, PO Box 5508, L-482, Livermore, California 94550.

Mr. Heinz Plattner, Project Engineer VK62, Sulzer Bros. Ltd., CH-8401 Winterthur, Switzerland.

Dr. Claudio Rizzello, Chemical Engineer, SNIA Techint, Via A. Bagnoni 34, 00153 Roma, Italy.

Dr. Grant Shenz, Science Secretary, McMaster University Technical Advisory Committee, Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Program, 1280 Main Street West, Engineering Building, Room 136, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4L7.

Mr. M. Thome, Kernforschungsanlage Juelich GmbH, ABT. SNQ/ZFR, Postfach 1913, D-5170 Juelich, West Germany.

Mr. André Rahier, SCK/CEN, Department BRI, 200, Boeretang, B-2400 Mol, Belgium.

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Tritium safe handling course

September 21-25, 1987

List of attendees

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3. Mr. J. L. Hemmrich, JET.
4. Mr. E. Kussel, JET.
5. Mr. M. Wykes, JET.
6. Ms. P. Chuilon, JET.
7. Frank Garcia, Law. Liv..
8. John Bowers, Law. Liv..
9. Ken Wright, PPPL.
10. William Blanchard, PPPL.
11. George Livitsky, PPPL.
12. Peter Chambers, PPPL.
13. Dr. T. Schober, ORNL.
14. P. Ballantyne, CRNL.
15. Mrs. Kiriko Miyamoto, CRNL, Jaeri.
16. S. Brereton, INEL-CFFTP.
17. Dheya Al-Othmany, U. of Aberdeen.
18. Mr. T. Garner, Sandia.
19. Mr. R. Czapinski, Sandia.
20. Mr. C. Karfs, Sandia.
21. Ms. Kathryn R. Blumberg, Sandia.
22. Ms. Glenda Gentry, Sandia.
23. Dr. Nassi, IPPI, Italy.

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2. Allister Bell, JET Joint Undertake.
3. C. Woodward, JET Joint Undertake.
4. G. Newbert, JET Joint Undertake.
5. P. Milverton, JET Joint Undertake.
6. P. McAdam, Cytrigen.
7. Todd Felver, Sandia National Labs.
8. Wayne Chrisuan, Sandia National Labs.
9. Glenda Gentry, Sandia National Labs.
10. Val Pestanas, Sandia National Labs.
11. Daniel Goodin, General Atomics.
12. Steve Doebler, Westinghouse Han.
13. William Schuck, Westinghouse Han.
14. John Bowers, Lawrence Livermore.
15. Ronald Kanna, Lawrence Livermore.
16. Barry Levine, Lawrence Livermore.
17. Mike Ward, AECO.
18. Fred Ohiweiler, GENDO.
19. Mike Bowbottom, Atomic Energy, Eng.
20. Mr. Garrecht, Kraftanlagen.
21. Mr. Triefenbach, IFF EFA Juelich.
22. Robert Cherdack, PPPL.
23. Eugene Kearns, PPPL.
24. Vic Garvotto, PPPL.
25. Glenn Pearson, PPPL.

**RESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENCE
INITIATIVE**

380. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Natural Resources list the organizations, agencies or individuals who received funds from Ontario fishing licences in the fiscal year 1987-88? Would the minister list the amount of money each organization, agency or individual received through Ontario fishing licences in the fiscal year 1987-88? [Tabled October 24, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: During fiscal year 1987-88 the following organizations, agencies or individuals received grants from the resident sport fishing licence initiative: (1) the municipality of Sault Ste. Marie for hatchery construction, in the amount of \$50,000; (2) the Thunder Bay Salmon Association for hatchery construction, in the amount of \$50,000.

It was clearly understood by all parties concerned, at the time that the ministry provided the funds, that these were one-time-only grants for the purpose of constructing hatchery facilities and that the funds were not to be used for operational costs.

LAND HOLDINGS

381. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the number of hectares of land in the private townships owned by Newaygo Forest Products, Domtar and Spruce Falls in northern Ontario? [Tabled October 24, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Since the land holdings referred to in the question are located on private land and not on crown land, the ministry does not keep records of such holdings.

INTERIM ANSWER

377. Mr. McLean-Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation cannot answer the question in the time provided. An answer will be available to the Legislature on or about December 19, 1988.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

NAMING OF ROAD

Sessional paper P-27, re Old Highway 17 north.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The Ministry of Transportation accepts and agrees to the petition requesting the portion of Old Highway 17 north between the Trans-Canada Highway 17 and Trout Lake Road to be renamed MacIntyre Road. Signs to identify this segment of Old Highway 17 as MacIntyre Road will be erected as time permits.

PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE

Sessional paper P-28, re Cavan township garbage dump.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The proposed landfill site on lot 6, concession 4, Cavan township, is one of three candidate sites proposed by the consultant for the Peterborough county/city waste management plan.

The draft report was submitted to the steering committee, composed of local and Ministry of the Environment representatives, in July 1988. This was followed by public meetings in September 1988 and an interministerial review.

The environmental assessment branch found some significant concerns with the draft report. Ministry technical comments are presently being compiled.

The steering committee has not yet accepted the consultant's report nor has it decided on the next appropriate steps.

No one site would be recommended until more detailed site investigations are undertaken, including the effects on the social as well as the natural environment.

This particular site, presently a gravel pit, would have to be engineered into an acceptable site, since it has no natural attenuation.

Concerns such as these raised by the petition would be carefully considered by the steering committee before any decision is made.

When one site is selected and the master plan is completed, the final report will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment to initiate the approval process, which includes a formal government review. This will provide an opportunity for further public comment or submission before final approval is given.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Sessional paper P-29, re workers' compensation.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Bill 162 will provide fairer compensation for workers who suffer from permanent disability as a result of a work-related injury or illness. In addition, the bill makes provision for a new award to recognize the long-term noneconomic consequences of a workplace injury.

The bill responds to the recommendations of the Task Force Report on Workers' Compensation Board Vocational Rehabilitation Services by emphasizing the important objective of assisting injured workers' return to work. It does so by placing an obligation on the Workers' Compensation Board to provide needed vocational rehabilitation services on the basis of early

intervention. The bill will ensure that injured workers play an active role in the design of their vocational rehabilitation program.

Bill 162 also places an obligation upon employers to re-employ injured workers upon their recovery, and it authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to levy penalties against those employers who fail to live up to this obligation.

The bill also places an obligation upon employers to maintain contributions and thus the coverage of an injured worker's health care, life insurance and pension benefit programs.

The bill raises the wage coverage ceiling from the current \$35,100 to 175 per cent of the average industrial wage, estimated to currently be \$44,000.

Accordingly, the government of Ontario intends to proceed with this legislation to transform the workers' compensation system into one which is much fairer and more effective.

CANADA POST

Sessional paper P-30, re Canada Post offices.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The issue of rural closings by Canada Post is a matter within federal jurisdiction. As no Ontario ministry is responsible for dealing with postal issues, the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs is forwarding this petition to the Honourable Harvie André, minister responsible for Canada Post, for his consideration.

MINIMUM WAGE

Sessional paper P-31, re minimum wage.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Exemptions to the minimum wage provisions of the Employment Standards Act are enumerated under regulation 285 of the act. Exemptions exist primarily for students in approved work experience programs, self-governing professions, commission-earning salespersons, crown employees and those persons who are otherwise self-employed. These exemptions are clearly stated in the act and it is a contravention of the act to remunerate a non-exempt employee at a rate which is below the general minimum wage or any of the special minima which may apply in any given case. The current review of the Employment Standards Act is examining whether such exemptions continue to be appropriate and necessary.

The government of Ontario is concerned with the ability of workers with limited income to maintain themselves and their families. That is why, after years of intermittent and ad hoc adjustments to the minimum wage, the govern-

ment of Ontario embarked upon a policy of annually reviewing the minimum wage with a view to restoring lost purchasing power.

As a result of this policy, over the past two years the minimum wage in Ontario has become, together with that in Quebec, the highest minimum wage for any provincial jurisdiction in Canada and among the highest of any jurisdiction in North America. Furthermore, the minimum wage has been restored to a level, relative to the average industrial wage, not seen since 1981.

Of course, the government of Ontario recognizes that, despite this progress, the problem of the working poor continues. The government understands that poverty is a complex issue and, as the recent report of the Social Assistance Review Committee notes, increasing the minimum wage in itself is not a solution to poverty.

It is generally accepted that a substantial increase in the minimum wage will have some effect upon employment thus affecting the job security of the most economically marginal sector of our society.

The recommendations contained in the SARC report approach the question of poverty in a holistic manner and are being actively reviewed by various ministries.

In the meantime, the government of Ontario is also attacking the problem of poverty at its root by restoring the purchasing power of minimum wage workers through an annual review of the minimum wage and by devoting significant resources to education at all levels, including adult literacy programs and training programs to upgrade the skills of the labour force.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
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 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
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 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
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 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
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 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Vacancy: Welland-Thorold

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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